三国志 ①

桃園の誓い

横山光輝

希望コミックス 16

A FEW THINGS TO NOTE. AS A JAPANESE MANGA, SANGOKUSHI OBVIOUSLY USED THE RESPECTIVE JAPANESE VERSIONS IN THE NAMING OF CHARACTERS IN THE STORY OF ROMANCE OF THREE KINGDOMS. FOR ALMOST ALL MAJOR CHARACTERS, I WILL TRY TO USE THE ENGLISH ROMANIZATION OF THE ACTUAL CHINESE NAMES. FOR EXAMPLE, I WILL USE "CAO CAO" INSTEAD OF "SOU SOU." HOWEVER, THERE ARE INSTANCES IN WHICH I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND THE CORRECT CHINESE ROMANIZED NAMES DUE TO A CHARACTER EITHER BEING SO OBSCURE OR EXCLUSIVE TO THIS MANGA. FOR THESE TIMES, I WILL USE THE JAPANESE ROMANIZED NAMES AND NOTE IT WITH AN ASTERISK (*) THE FIRST TIME THAT CHARACTER IS INTRODUCED.

THE SAME SYSTEM WILL GO FOR NAMES OF PLACES TOO.

ALSO, PLEASE EXCUSE ANY MISTAKES I MAKE IN THE FUTURE WHEN IT COMES TO PROPER SPELLING OF THE ROMANIZED CHINESE NAMES. I AM NOT CHINESE AND IT CAN BE RATHER CONFUSING WHEN YOU LEARN A NEW NAME FOR A CHARACTER YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN BY ANOTHER NAME.

IN ANY CASE, I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU'S RENDITION OF THIS CLASSIC TALE.

SINCERELY,
HOX

SANGOKUSHI

1

THE OATH OF THE PEACH GARDEN

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

LIU BEI
XUANDE

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志（さんごくし）

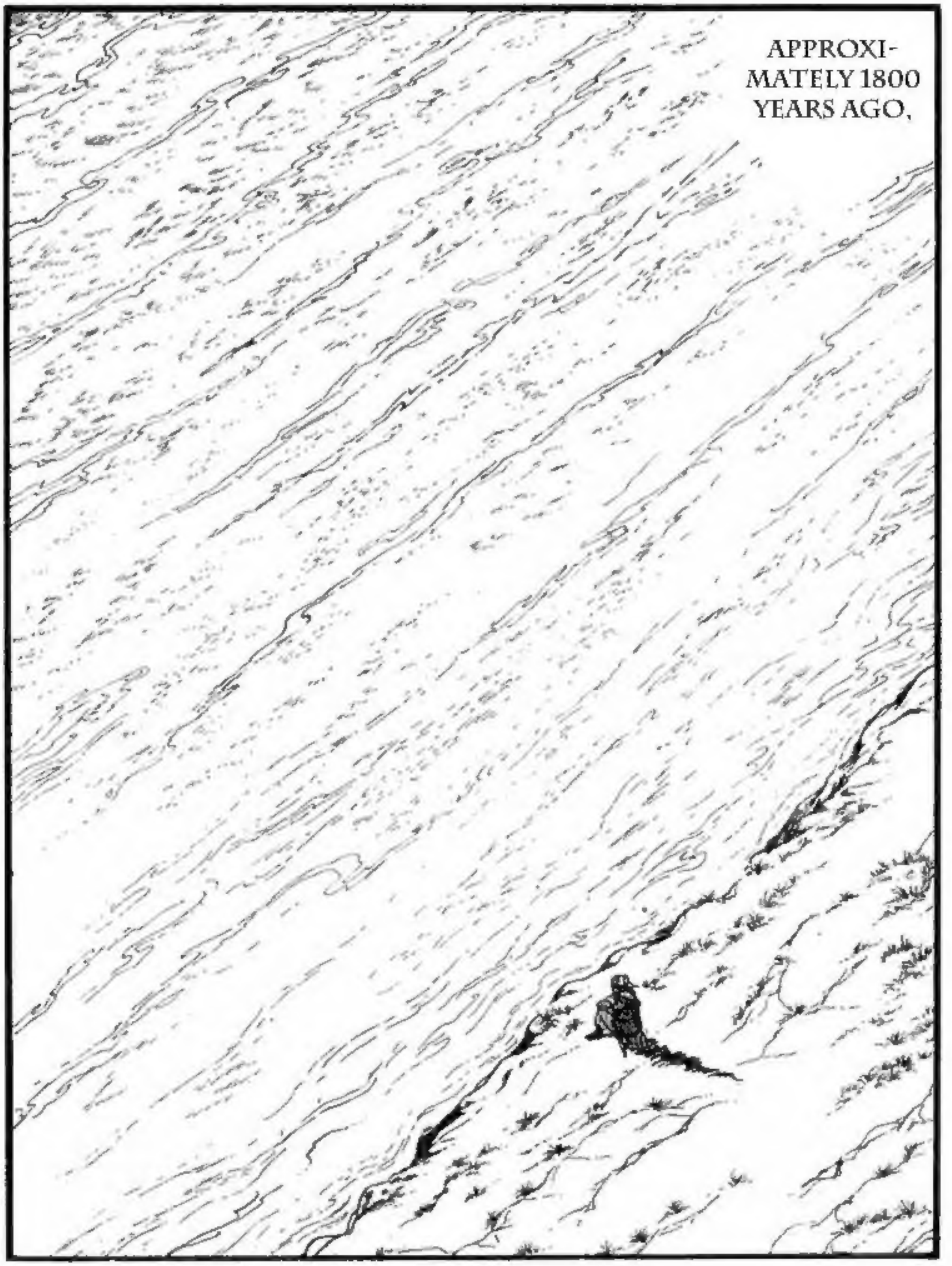
VOLUME 01
THE OATH OF THE PEACH GARDEN

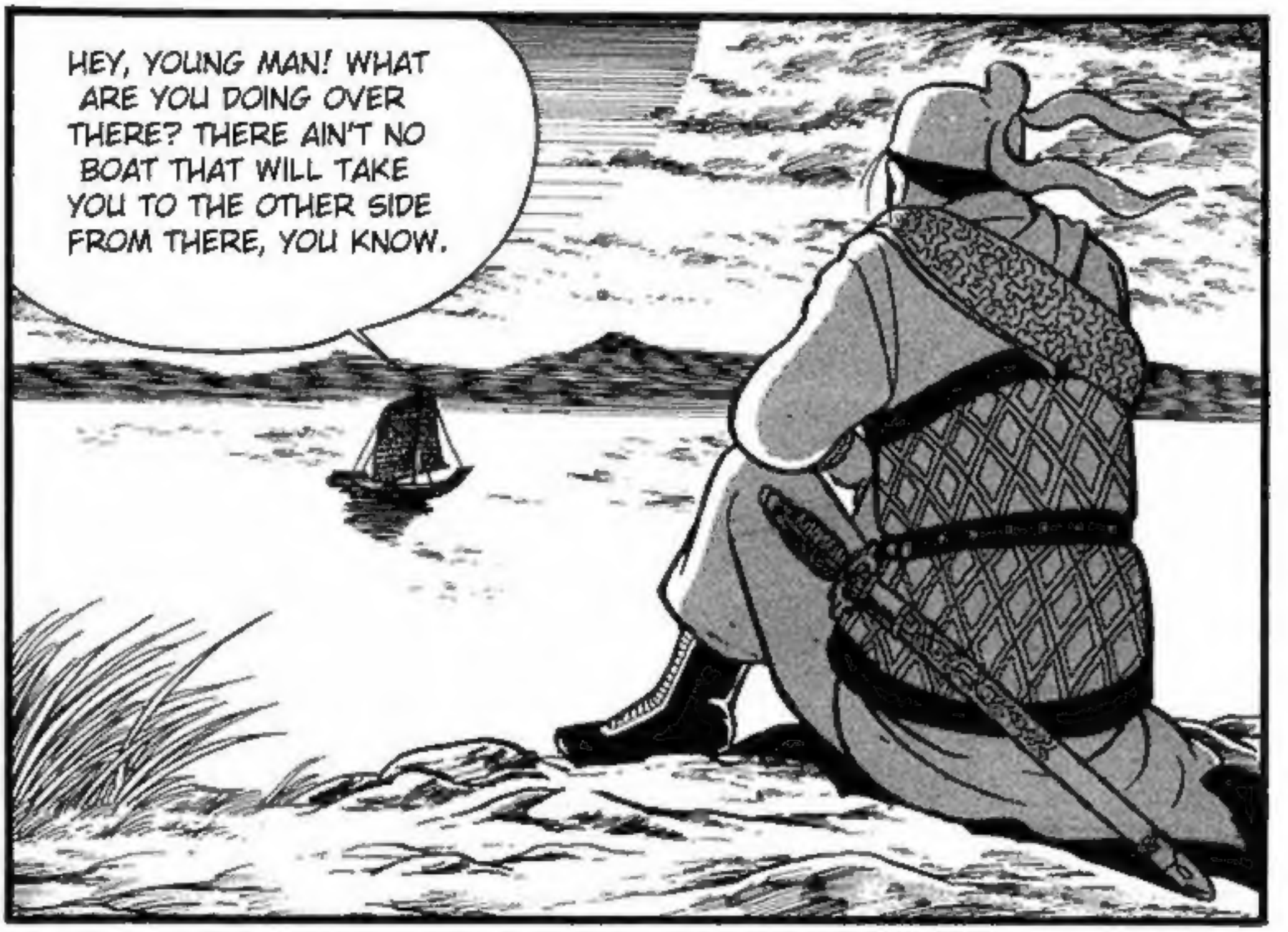
TABLE OF CONTENTS

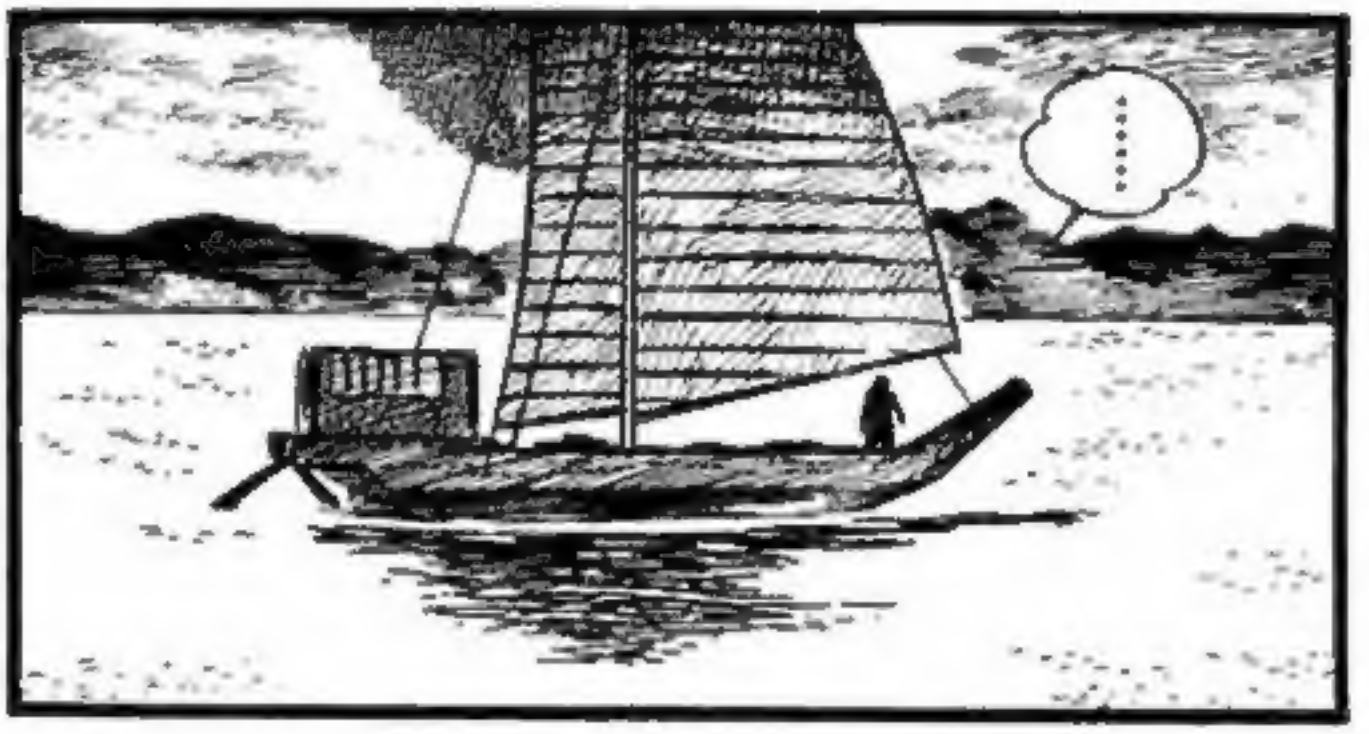
THE BEGGAR CORPS 167
THE KING'S SWORD 111
ZHANG FEI 87
LADY FUYOU* 67
THE YELLOW SCARVES REBELLION 7

〔月刊『希望の友』掲載〕

THE YELLOW SCARVES REBELLION




HEY, YOUNG MAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE? THERE AIN'T NO BOAT THAT WILL TAKE YOU TO THE OTHER SIDE FROM THERE, YOU KNOW.


.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN.

WHEN I GAZE AT THE YELLOW RIVER, THE RIVER TALKS TO ME.

.....

JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?

ARE YOU A TRAVELLER?

THE PEOPLE OF HAN, LIKE THE GRAINS OF THE SAND HERE, HAVE COME FROM SO FAR AWAY,

AND ESTABLISHED THEIR CULTURE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS BY DEVELOPING THIS LAND FOLLOWING THE YELLOW RIVER.

IF YOU JUST SIT THERE LIKE THAT, AN OFFICER MIGHT COME AND SUSPECT YOU.

BUT THOSE YELLOW SCARVES HAVE SHOWED AROUND HERE IN THESE PARTS LATELY.

HMM, YOU'RE AN UNUSUAL MAN.

WHICH IS WHY GAZING AT THIS RIVER ALL DAY IS NOT TIRESOME.

THERE SURE ARE SOME STRANGE MEN IN THIS WORLD, EH?

THANK YOU FOR WARNING ME.

?

HEY!

OH NO, OFFICER. I'M MERELY JUST A TRAVELLER.

AND JUST WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

YOU WOULDN'T BE ONE OF THEM YELLOW SCARVES NOW, RIGHT?

JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

A PEDDLER, HUH?

I'M FROM ZHUO COUNTY. I MAKE AND SELL STRAW MATS AND SANDALS.

?

HMM?

THIS IS A MEMENTO OF MY LATE FATHER.

A GOLD-ENCRUSTED SWORD FOR A PEDDLER? THAT SEEMS A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS.

A SHIP FROM LUO-YANG!?

I'M WAITING FOR A SHIP FROM LUOYANG.

HMM, THEN ANSWER ME THIS. JUST WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SITTING HERE ALL DAY LONG?

YES. I'VE HEARD THAT A SHIP FROM LUOYANG COMES BY HERE ONCE A MONTH.

TEA!?

NO, I'VE COME TO BUY TEA.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE ON BOARD?

AND JUST WHOM ARE YOU BUYING THE TEA FOR? IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW SICK?

NO, SHE IS NOT SICK. I MERELY WISH TO LET MY MOTHER KNOW WHAT TEA TASTES LIKE AT LEAST ONCE IN HER LIFE.

BACK IN THOSE DAYS, TEA WAS SUCH AN EXPENSIVE AND RARE COMMODITY THAT ONLY THE SICK OR RICH COULD AFFORD TO DRINK IT.

HMM, WHAT A TOUCHING STORY.

I'M WAITING FOR THAT SHIP FROM LUOYANG TO BUY TEA WITH THE MONEY I SAVED ALL YEAR LONG.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THERE'VE BEEN REBELS AROUND IN THESE PARTS.

WELL, TAKE CARE THEN.

BUYING TEA FOR HIS MOTHER...

HE MAY BE YOUNG BUT HE'S QUITE ADMIRABLE.

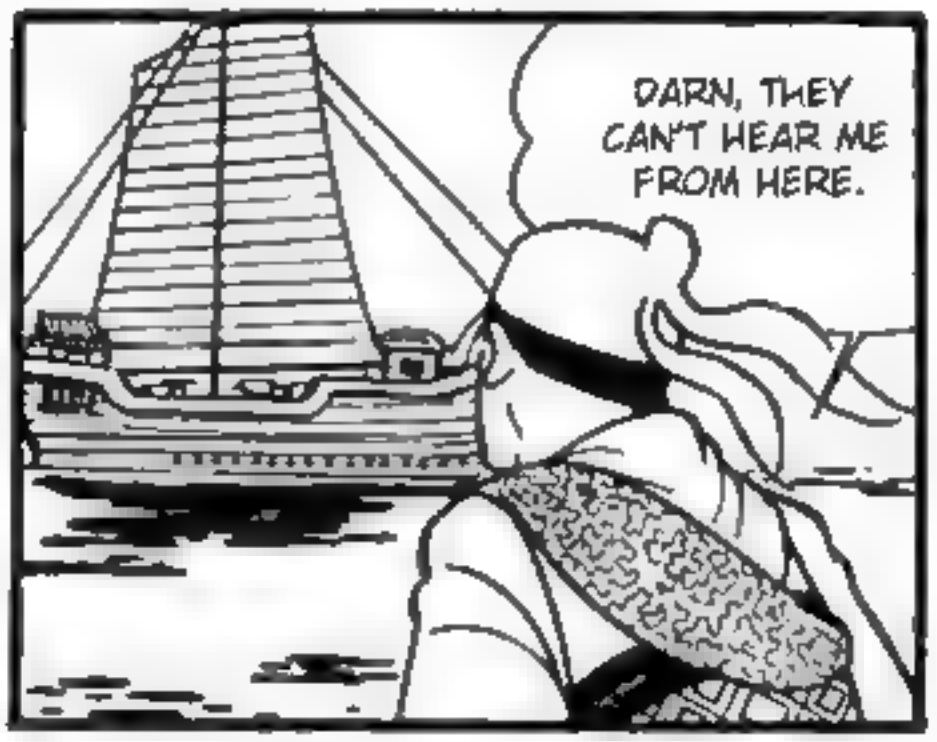
AH!

THIS SHIP WAS A COMMERCE BOAT FROM LUOYANG THAT CAME ONCE A MONTH WITH MANY RARE COMMODITIES AND THE LATEST NEWS.

IT'S THE SHIP!

HEEEEYY!!

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY TO THE PORT AFTER ALL.


DARN, THEY CAN'T HEAR ME FROM HERE.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

I'LL TAKE ONE OF THOSE!

STEP RIGHT UP, OUR INVENTORY IS FULL OF THE LATEST GOODS FROM THE CAPITAL.

THAT WOULD BE ME.

CAN I ASK WHOM MIGHT BE THE CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP?

TEA?

I HAVE A REQUEST. PLEASE SELL ME SOME OF YOUR TEA.

EVEN JUST ONE TEA LEAF I HAVE ON THIS SHIP IS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY. I'M AFRAID I CAN'T JUST SELL IT TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT A PERSON LIKE YOU CAN DRINK.

DO YOU EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE TYPE OF TEA I SELL?

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WISH TO BUY FOR MY DEAR MOTHER. I'VE SAVED UP MONEY ALL YEAR LONG JUST FOR THIS.

I'M PERFECTLY AWARE OF YOUR HIGH QUALITY TEA LEAVES.

THIS IS ALL I HAVE.

HMM, A TOUCHING STORY. JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE THOUGH?

OH?

EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT WOULD BE FINE.

BUT THESE ARE ALL JUST SILVER PIECES SO CAN'T GIVE YOU MUCH.

HMM, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU SAVED UP QUITE A BIT.

I AM STILL A BUISNESSMAN SO THIS IS ALL I CAN GIVE.

COME INSIDE.

ALRIGHT, I'LL GIVE YOU SOME HIGH-GRADE TEA TO REWARD YOUR CARE FOR YOUR DEAR MOTHER.

THANK YOU SIR!

NO, THIS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH MY MOTHER WILL BE SURELY PLEASED WITH THIS.

HMM?

HMM, IT'S ALREADY GOTTEN QUITE DARK. I BETTER STAY IN THIS TOWN FOR THE NIGHT.

THAT SAME STAR IS OUT AGAIN TONIGHT.

IT'S BEEN SAID SINCE LONG AGO THAT WHEN THAT STAR APPEARS, THE WORLD WILL BECOME HECTIC.

EXCUSE ME.

IT MIGHT BE THE HARBRINGER OF CHAOS...

PLEASE PARDON ME SIR, BUT BECAUSE OF THE SHIP FROM LUOYANG TODAY, THE ROOMS ARE ALL FULL.

I WOULD LIKE TO STAY ONE NIGHT HERE, ARE THERE ANY FREE ROOMS REMAINING?

WELCOME.

I CAN SLEEP ANYWHERE

THIS IS THE ROOM.

WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN, COME THIS WAY.

YES, THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULD BE FINE WITH A ROOM LIKE THIS?

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON MOTHER'S FACE WHEN I BRING HER THIS HOME TOMORROW.

AH, I'M TIRED

BUT I FINALLY ACQUIRED THE TEA.

WHAT IS IT?

HUH?

WHAT!?
SIR, IT'S TERRIBLE! THE YELLOW SCARVES HAVE COME TO LOOT THE GOODS FROM LUOYANG!

AHHH!

SOMEONE HELP!!

AGHH!

THE YELLOW SCARF REBELS THEIR NAMES CAME FROM THE YELLOW SCARVES THEY WORE AROUND THEIR HEADS

AHAHAHA HAHAHA!!

HOW COULD I JUST STAND BY AND WATCH?

SIR, PLEASE STOP...

UGH...

I UNDERSTAND THAT SIR, BUT WHAT CAN YOU ACCOMPLISH ALONE? THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THE YELLOW SCARVES OUT THERE AND EVEN IF YOU DEFEAT THEM, THERE ARE STILL THOUSANDS MORE!

ALRIGHT.

SO PLEASE, JUST RUN AWAY QUICKLY!

THANK YOU INKEEPER.

PLEASE TAKE CARE.

HAH...
HAH...

I VOW TO ONE DAY BRING DOWN THESE WICKED DEMONS...

HOW COULD THIS BE...

HUH?

HAHAHA, YOU SHOULDN'T SAY SUCH BIG WORDS.

GUH...

AND JUST WHO ARE YOU CALLING "WICKED DEMONS"...?

DON'T MOVE.

HMM...

IT'D BE BEST TO COOPERATE QUIETLY.

IF YOU TRY TO RESIST, WE'LL CUT OFF THOSE SLENDER ARMS OF YOURS.

LOOKS LIKE WE CAN USE HIM.

SIR, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH HIM...

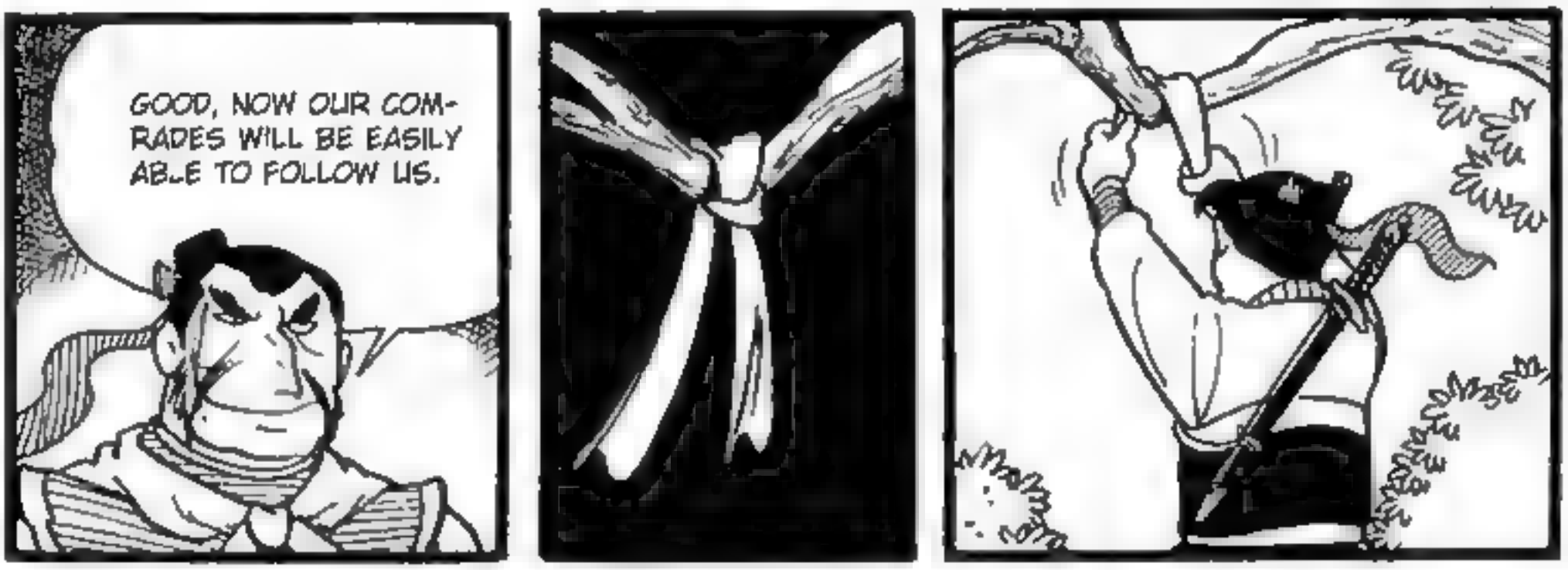
MAKE HIM CARRY THE BAGGAGE.

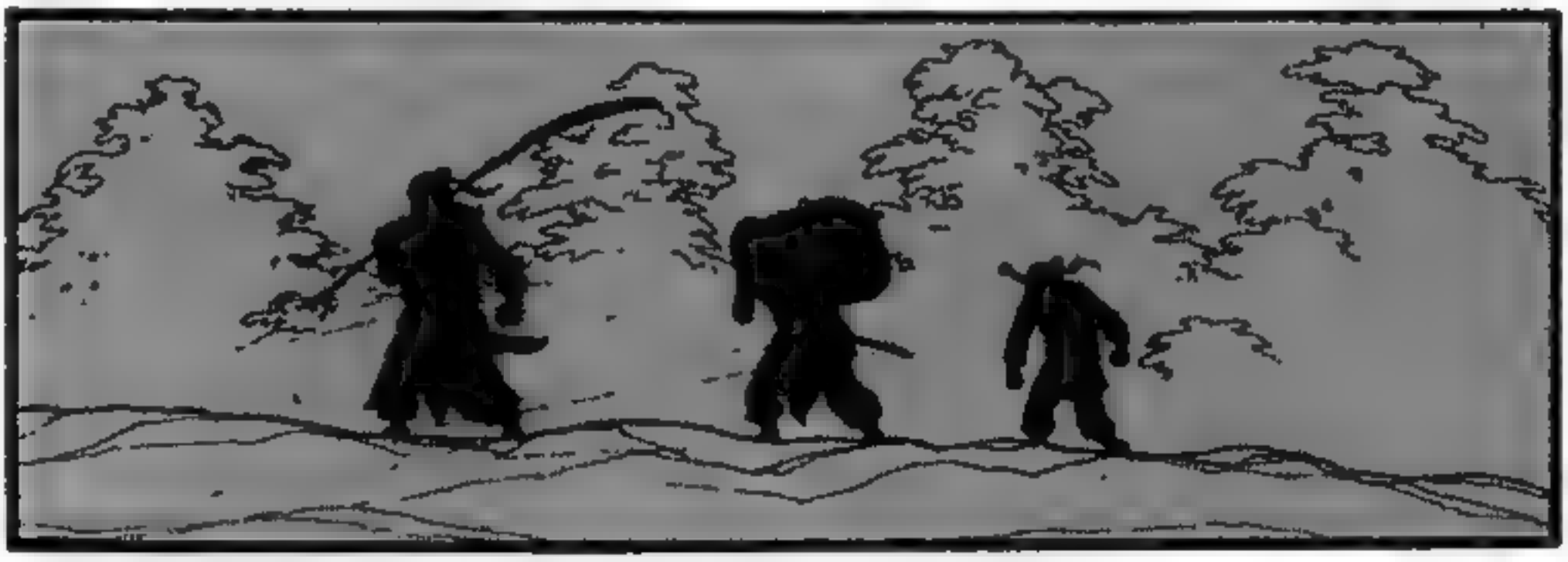
YOU'RE A LUCKY ONE. NOW CARRY THIS STUFF IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOUR LIFE.

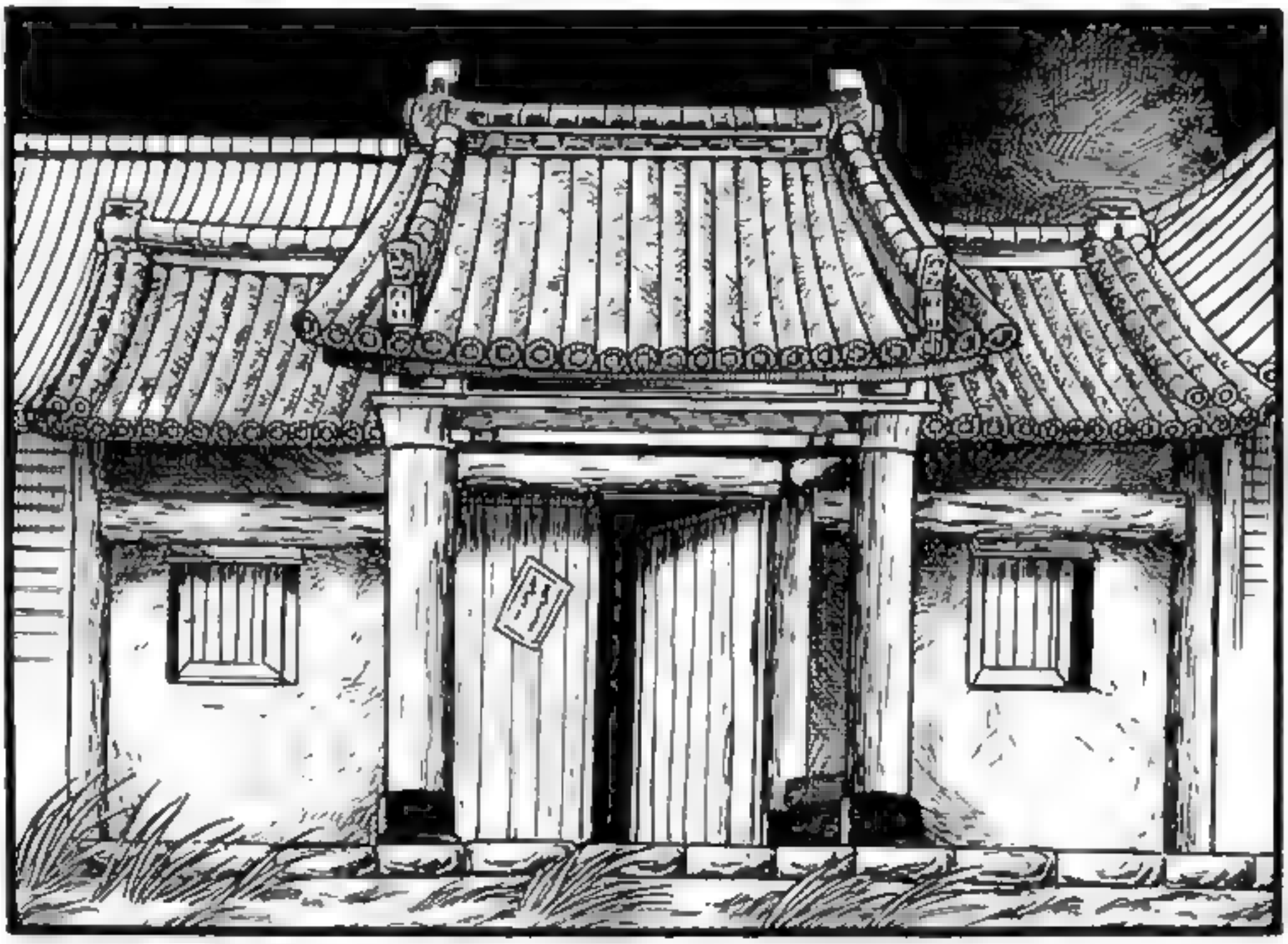
ALRIGHT, COME ALONG.

YES, OF COURSE.

YOU ARE MARKING OUR TRAIL, RIGHT?


GOOD, NOW OUR COM-
RADES WILL BE EASILY
ABLE TO FOLLOW US.





HOW ABOUT WE STOP BY AND HAVE A MEAL HERE?

A TEMPLE

LOOK, SIR! IT LOOKS LIKE THIS TEMPLE SUPPORTS US YELLOW SCARF REBELS JUDGING FROM THIS YELLOW PAPER THEY'VE PUT UP.

ANYBODY HERE?

HMM?

IS NOBODY HERE?

HEY, IF YOU'RE HERE THEN ANSWER ME!

THERE ARE NONE.

NONE!?

YOU MUST HAVE SOME FOOD HERE, RIGHT? SO HURRY UP AND GIVE US SOME FOOD SINCE WE'RE HUNGRY.

JUST WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE? DO YOU NOT SEE THESE YELLOW SCARVES AROUND OUR HEADS!?

DON'T FUCK WITH US OLD MAN. HOW COULD THERE BE NO FOOD AT ALL IN A TEMPLE!?

YOU PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN IT ALL AWAY!

NONE, NONE, NONE!!! THERE ISN'T EVEN A STATUE OF THE BUDDHA LEFT HERE NOW!

LIKE A SWARM OF LOCUSTS, YOU PEOPLE HAVE STRIPPED AWAY THE LANDS BARREN.

THE WELL HAS BEEN POISONED.

THEN AT LEAST BRING SOME WATER.

:PEW:

YOUR COMRADES, OF COURSE

JUST WHO THE FUCK DID THAT!?

GO SEE FOR YOURSELVES.

IS THAT WATER CLEAN?

HEY, THERE'S A POND

UGH!

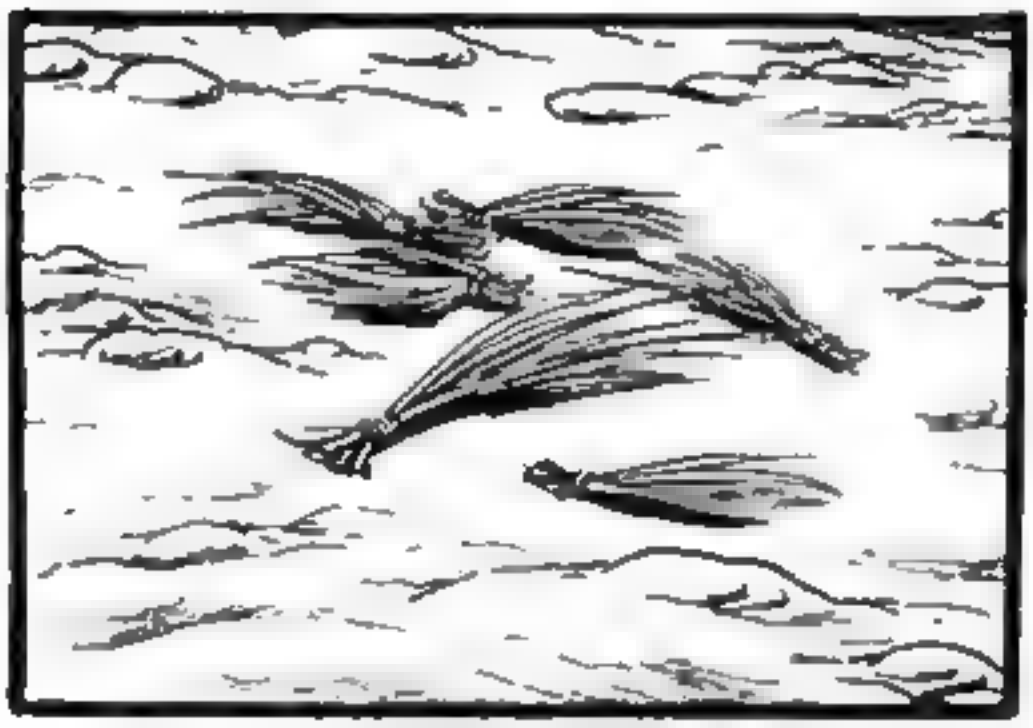
PSH, IF YOU WERE LYING, I WON'T HESITATE TO CUT YOUR HEAD OFF.

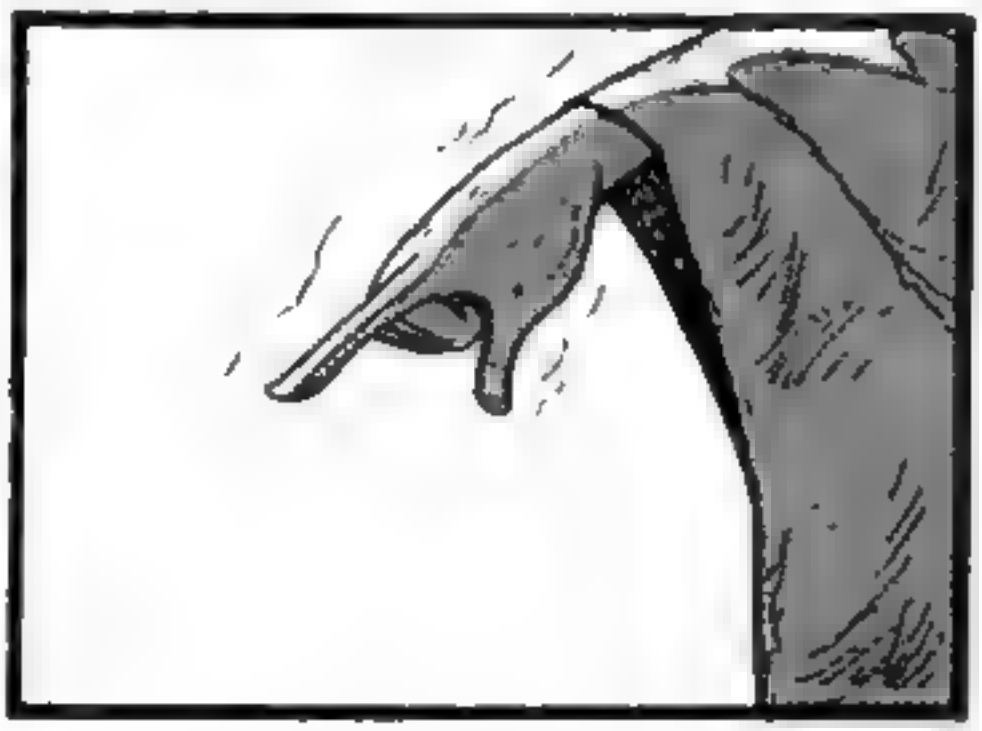
YEAH, AND WHAT OF IT!? THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO MESS WITH US!

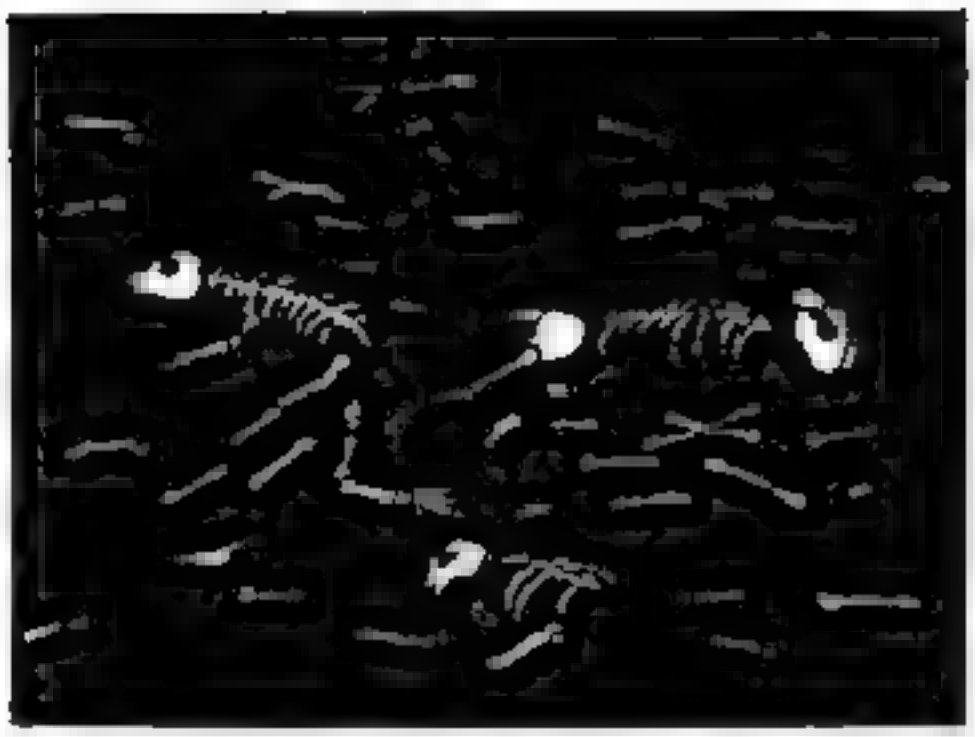
TAKE A LOOK. THOSE ARE THE CORPSES OF HONEST MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE KILLED BY YOUR MEN.

THEN JUST WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING OFF OF!?

ALRIGHT, PRIEST. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE NO FOOD NOR WATER HERE...







OH WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL OUR COMRADES COME AND HAVE THEM SHARE THEIR FOOD WITH US.

ALRIGHT, LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE.

WE CAN'T EAT SHIT LIKE THIS.

HMM?

?

YOUNG MAN OVER THERE, PLEASE WAIT!

OHHHH!

PLEASE LET ME TAKE A CLOSER LOOK... AT YOUR FACE...

WHAT IS IT?

YOU ARE THE ONE THAT WILL CHASE THE DEMONS AWAY AND BRING BACK LIGHT UPON THIS WORLD.

NO, NO, I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY FROM YOUR FACE. THE BLOOD OF THE ROYALS OR THAT OF THE HEAVENS RUNS IN YOU.

THAT CAN'T BE, I'M JUST A SIMPLE PEDDLER.

I'M NOT SURE.

WHAT ABOUT FURTHER BACK?

BUT MY FATHER AND GRANDFATHER WERE MERE PEASANTS AS WE...

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, JUST TRUST IN MY WORDS.

THIS IS A HEIRLOOM PASSED DOWN IN MY FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.

AND WHAT ABOUT THAT SWORD?

THIS MAY BE OLD, BUT I CAN SEE FROM ITS PEERLESS CRAFTSMANSHIP THAT IT'S THE SWORD OF A KING.

THIS IS NOT A SWORD THAT REGULAR FOLKS CARRY AROUND.

GO.

JUST HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE US WAIT!?

PLEASE TREASURE YOUR LIFE UNTIL THE RIGHT TIME COMES.

AND DO NOT FORGET WHAT I SAID TO YOU.

BUT ABOUT THAT ONE THING HE SAID...

IT SEEMS LIKE THAT OLD PRIEST ON THE VERGE OF DEATH SAID SOME STRANGE WORDS TO YOU.

BUT HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, THAT YOU DEFINITELY DO HAVE SOME POTENTIAL.

A MERE PEDDLER CAN'T BECOME A GENERAL NOR A KING.

ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT YOU WOULD GO ON TO DO GREAT THINGS,

EVEN I UNDERSTOOD THAT WHEN I LOOKED AT YOU, WHICH IS WHY I DIDN'T KILL YOU.

HOW ABOUT IT, WILL YOU JOIN US?

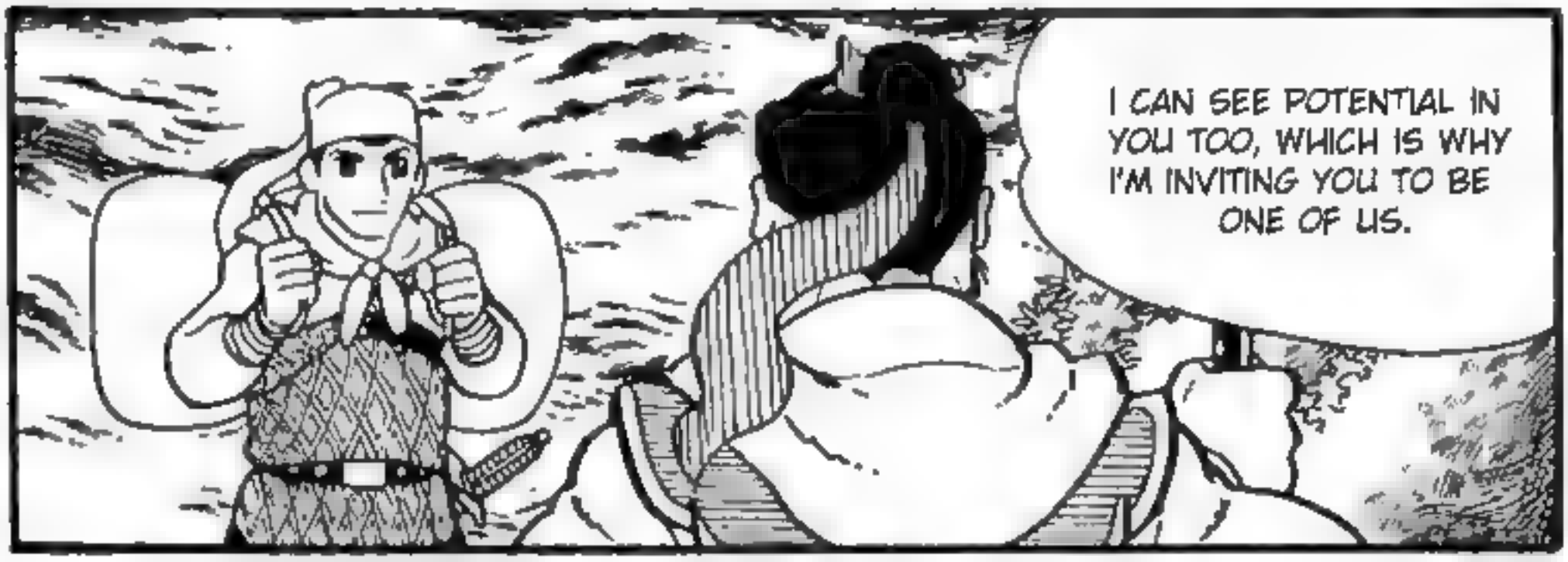
THE YOUNG MAN LOOKED UP AT THE SKY SILENTLY.

THAT STRANGE STAR SEEMED AS IF IT WERE CONVEYING SOME MESSAGE.

IT WAS SAID THAT IT WOULD FORETELL THE WORLD FALLING INTO VIOLENCE AND CHAOS...

HERE, COME SIT WITH ME.

WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT FOR?


I CAN SEE POTENTIAL IN YOU TOO, WHICH IS WHY I'M INVITING YOU TO BE ONE OF US.

MISTAKEN?

YOU'RE MISTAKEN ABOUT WHAT WE YELLOW SCARF REBELS ARE ABOUT.

BUT EVEN WE WORSHIP OUR LEADER, ZHANG JIAO LIKE A HOLY GOD.

YES. WITH YOUR NARROW-MINDEDNESS, YOU PROBABLY SEE US AS EVIL MEN WHO KILL GOOD CITIZENS.

LET ME TELL YOU HOW THE YELLOW SCARF REBELS CAME TO BE.

AROUND 10 YEARS AGO, IN JULU COUNTY, THERE WAS A MAN CALLED ZHANG JIAO.

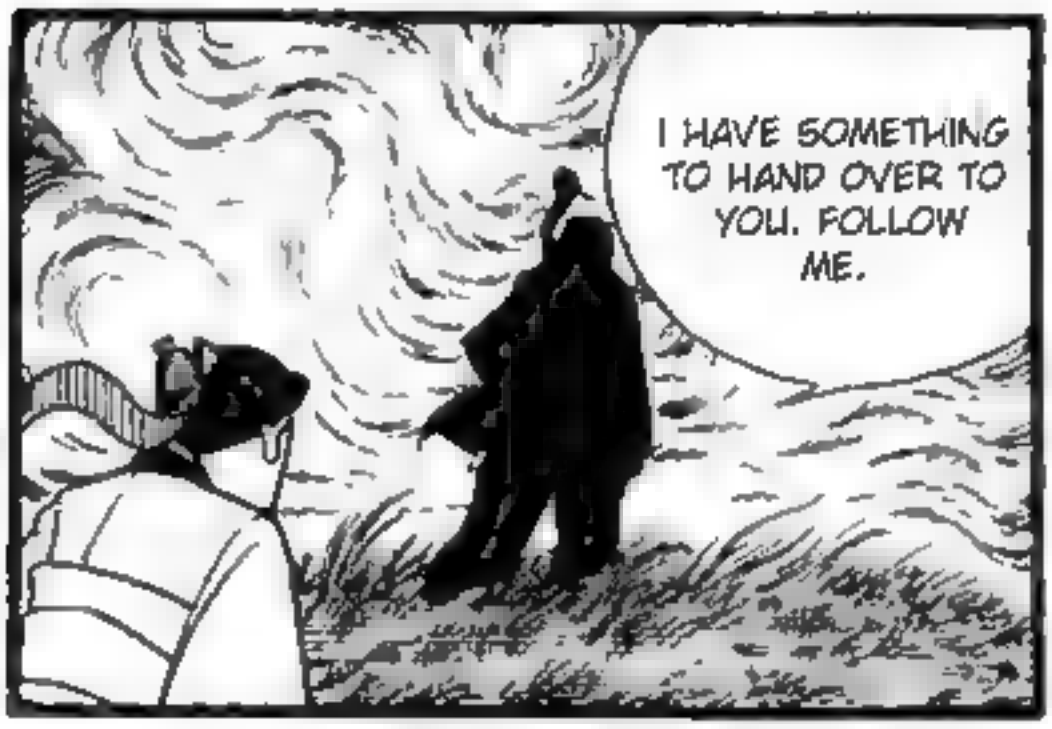
AND HE ALWAYS TIED HIS HAIR WITH A YELLOW SCARF.

ZHANG JIAO WAS KNOWN AS A RARE GENIUS IN HIS VILLAGE.

ON ONE DAY WHEN HE WENT TO DIG UP SOME HERBS IN THE MOUN TAINS..

AHH.

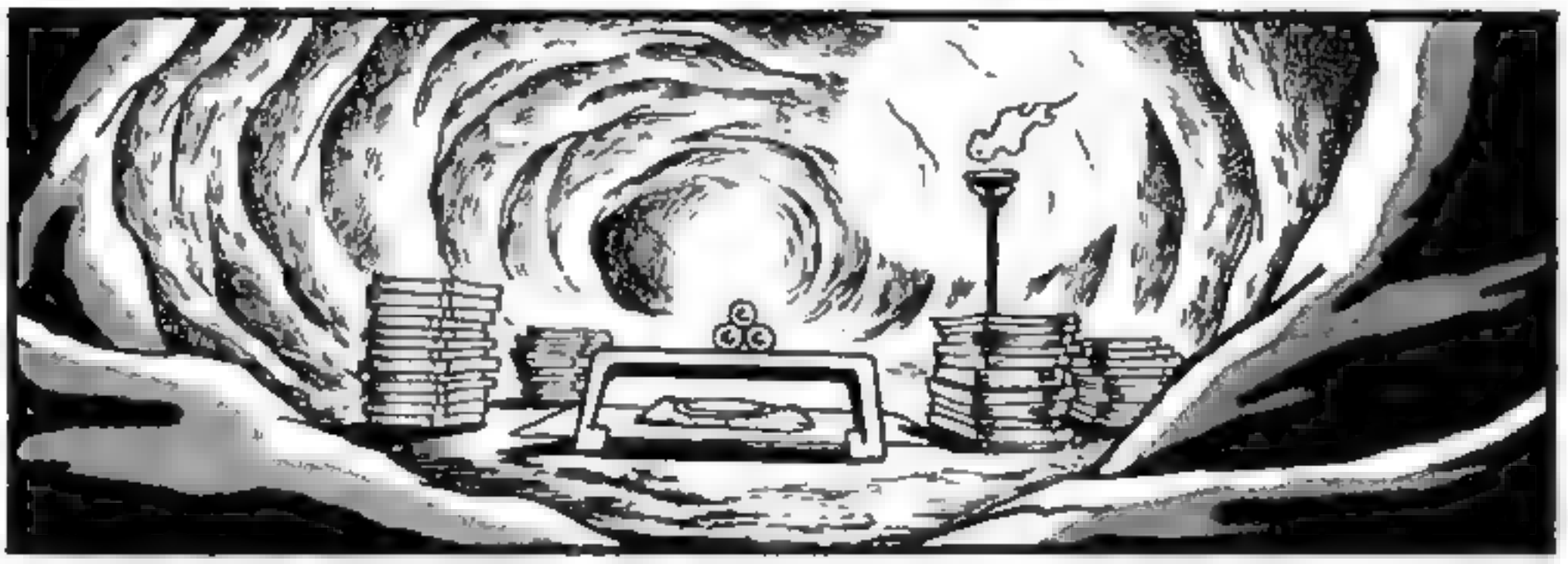
ヒュウ

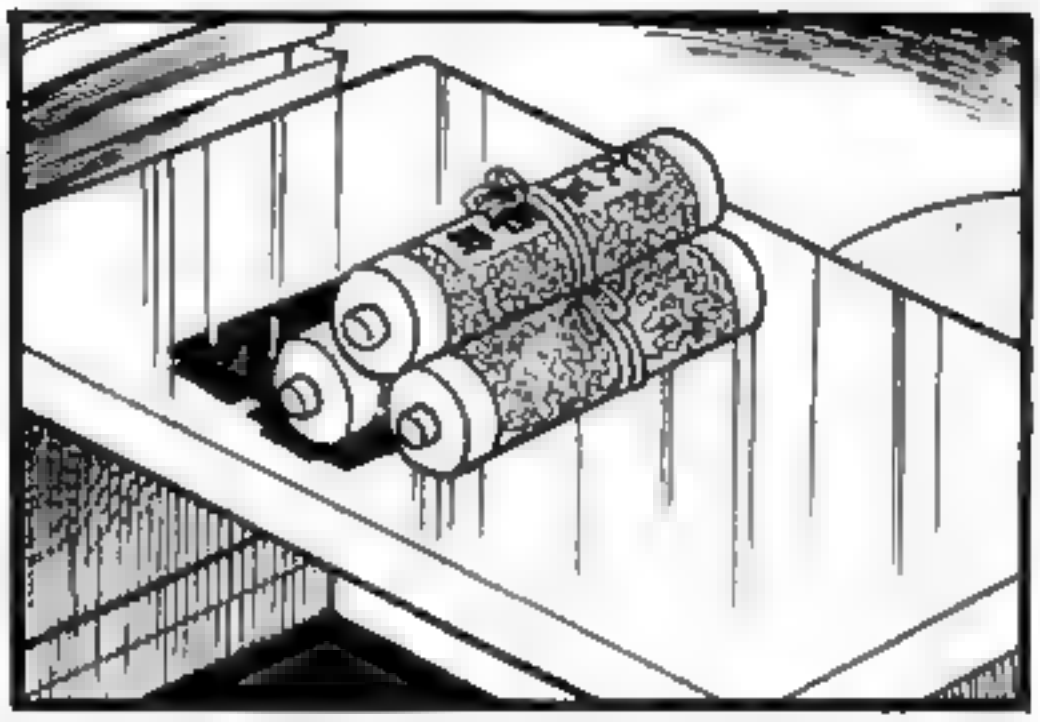

I HAVE SOMETHING TO HAND OVER TO YOU. FOLLOW ME.

ZHANG JIAO, I HAVE AWAITED YOU FOR A LONG TIME.

ENTER.

IT IS HERE





THESE 3 SCROLLS ARE WHAT I WANT TO HAND OVER TO YOU.

TO GIVE ME SOMETHING SUCH AS THIS...

THIS BOOK IS CALLED, "THE CLASSIC OF GREAT PEACE." I WISH FOR YOU TO READ THIS WELL AND GUIDE THIS WORLD AWAY FROM CHAOS AND INTO PEACE.

BUT...

IF YOU ARE TO BECOME INTOXICATED BY WEALTH AND POWER, THE HEAVENS WILL PUNISH YOU.

AAH, PLEASE AT LEAST LET ME KNOW YOUR NAME.

HEED MY WORDS WELL.

SAINT HERMIT OF THE SOUTHERN LANDS!?

I AM SAINT HERMIT OF THE SOUTHERN LANDS.

THE VILLAGERS SAID THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CAME TO ZHANG JIAO PERSONALLY AND REQUESTED OF HIM TO GUIDE THIS NATION.

THIS INCIDENT SOON SPREAD ALL OVER THE TOWN.

BUT SINCE THAT DAY, ZHANG JIAO LOCKED HIS HOUSE GATE AND RARELY EVER LEFT HIS HOUSE.

OR MEDITATING.

HE SPENT ALL HIS TIME STUDYING "THE CLASSIC OF GREAT PEACE,"

ONE YEAR, AN EPIDEMIC BROKE OUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THERE WERE MANY CORPSES LYING ABOUT IN THE VILLAGE.

HE GAVE MEDICINE TO ALL WHO WERE SUFFERING.

TO MEN, HE GAVE GOLD COLOURED MEDICINE.

DURING THOSE TIMES, ZHANG JIAO SUDDENLY OPENED HIS GATES AND CAME OUT.

AND TO CHIL-
DREN, CRIMSON
COLOURED
MEDICINE.

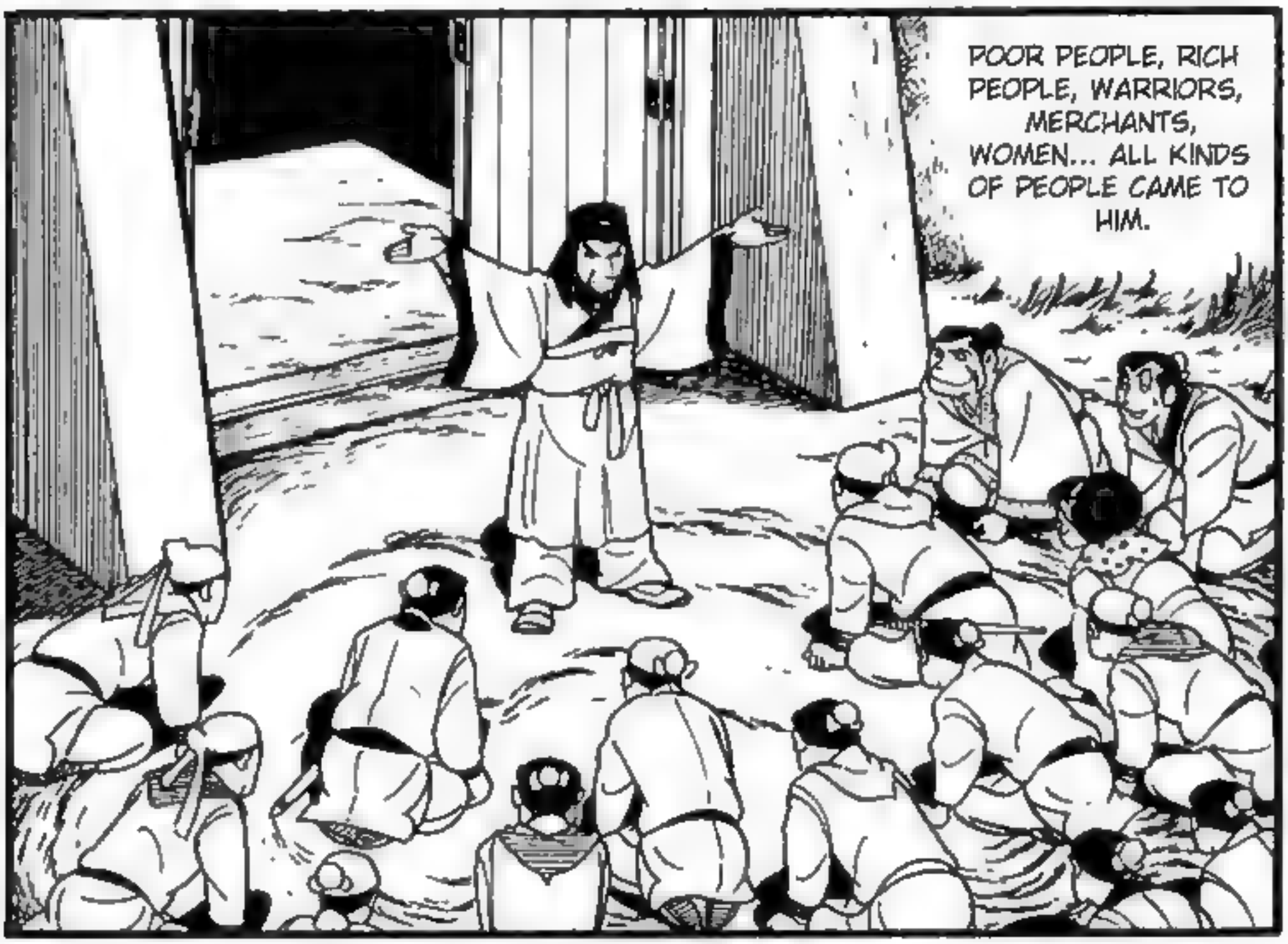
AND TO THE
WOMEN, HE
GAVE SILVER
COLOURED
MEDICINE.

THE VILLAGERS
WERE
OVERJOYED.

WITHIN JUST A FEW
DAYS, THIS MYSTERIOUS
MEDICINE CURED ALL OF
THE VILLAGERS AS IF
BY MAGIC.

THIS NEWS
SPREAD AS
FAST AS THE
WIND TO THE
OTHER TOWNS.

SOON, PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER CAME TO SEE THE FACE OF THIS SAVIOUR AND PERHAPS BECOME HIS FOLLOWERS.


POOR PEOPLE, RICH PEOPLE, WARRIORS, MERCHANTS, WOMEN... ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE CAME TO HIM.

THE NUMBER OF HIS FOLLOWERS QUICKLY INCREASED AND SPREAD ACROSS MANY CITIES. IN AN ATTEMPT TO MIMIC THEIR LEADER, THEY ALL TIED THEIR HAIR WITH YELLOW SCARVES.

HE THEN LATER GAVE RANKS AMONG HIS FOLLOWERS AND BESTOWED SOME TITLES SUCH AS GENERALS, CAPTAINS...

AND HIS BROTHERS ZHANG BAO AND ZHANG LIAO WERE GIVEN THE TITLES 'GENERAL OF THE LAND' AND 'GENERAL OF THE PEOPLE' RESPECTIVELY. THE GREAT SAGE ZHANG JIAO WAS NOW KNOWN AS THE 'GENERAL OF THE HEAVEN.'

THE YELLOW SCARVES THEY WORE AROUND THEIR HEADS BECAME THEIR TRAIT AND THUS THE PEOPLE SOON CALLED THEM THE YELLOW SCARVES.

EVEN ALL THEIR FLAGS WERE YELLOW. AND ON THE BIGGEST FLAG, THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN:

蒼天已死
黄夫当立
歳在甲子
天下大吉

蒼天已死
黄夫当立
歳在甲子
天下大吉

THE BLUE SKIES HAVE ALREADY VANISHED.

NOW IS TIME OF THE MEN OF YELLOW TO RISE UP.

AND THAT IS HOW THE YELLOW SCARF REBELS CAME TO BE. THEY HAD DECIDED TO FORGE A NEW ERA WITH THEIR OWN TWO HANDS, BELIEVING THAT THE HAN DYNASTY COULD NO LONGER BRING ANY HAPPINESS.

TO THOSE THAT SUBMITTED, ZHANG JIAO LET THEM LIVE AS PEACEFULLY AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, TO THOSE THAT WENT AGAINST HIM, HE KILLED WITHOUT MERCY AND STOLE THEIR FORTUNES.

THEIR FORCES BECAME SO GREAT THAT THE MUNICIPAL ARMIES COULD NOT HANDLE THEM ALONE.

EVERYDAY, URGENT REQUESTS CAME TO LUOYANG, ASKING THE EMPEROR JING FOR REINFORCEMENTS.

FOR HE WAS MERELY A CHILD OF 12 YEARS THAT KNEW NOTHING OF POLITICS AND THE WORLD.

BUT THE EMPEROR DID NOT SEND ANY REINFORCEMENTS,

HIS VASSALS, EXPLOITING THIS FACT, RAN THE COUNTRY AS THEY LIKED SO THAT THEY COULD LIVE AS LUXURIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

THIS SITUATION MADE THE CITIZENS UNEASY.

A SNAKE APPEARED IN THE PALACE ON ONE DAY,

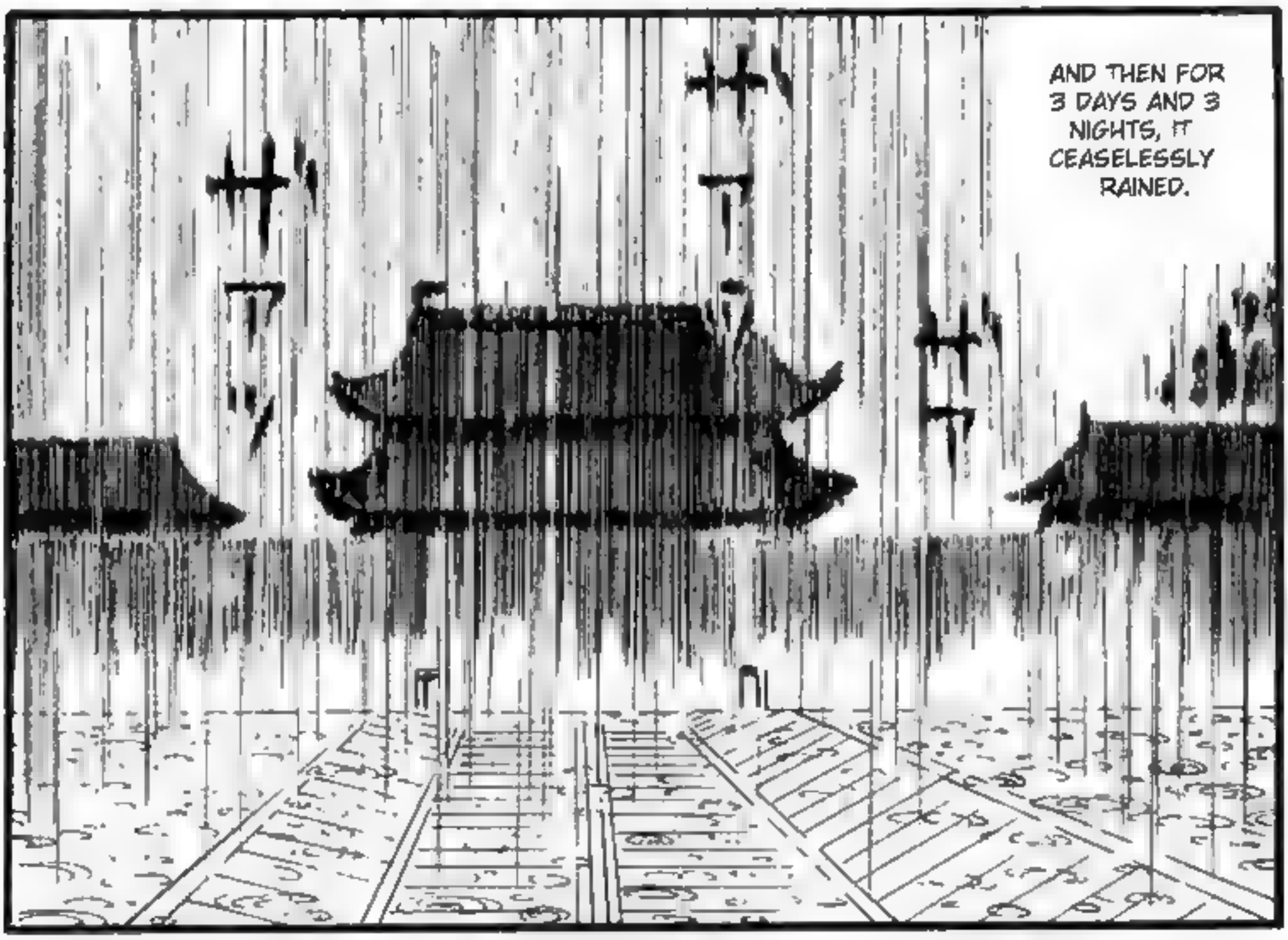
AND IN THESE TIMES, THE MOST OMINOUS THING OCCURRED.

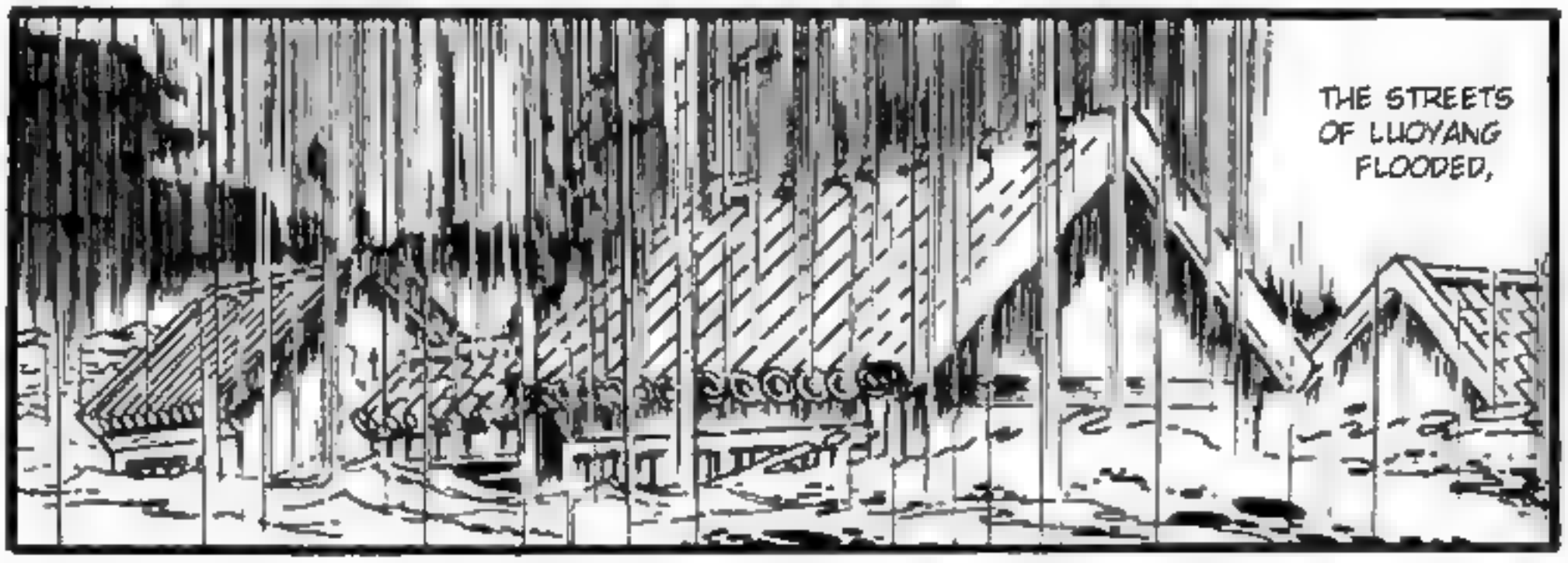
THE GUARDS QUICKLY KILLED THE SNAKE.

AND THE SNAKE DROPPED FROM THE ROOF TO RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR.

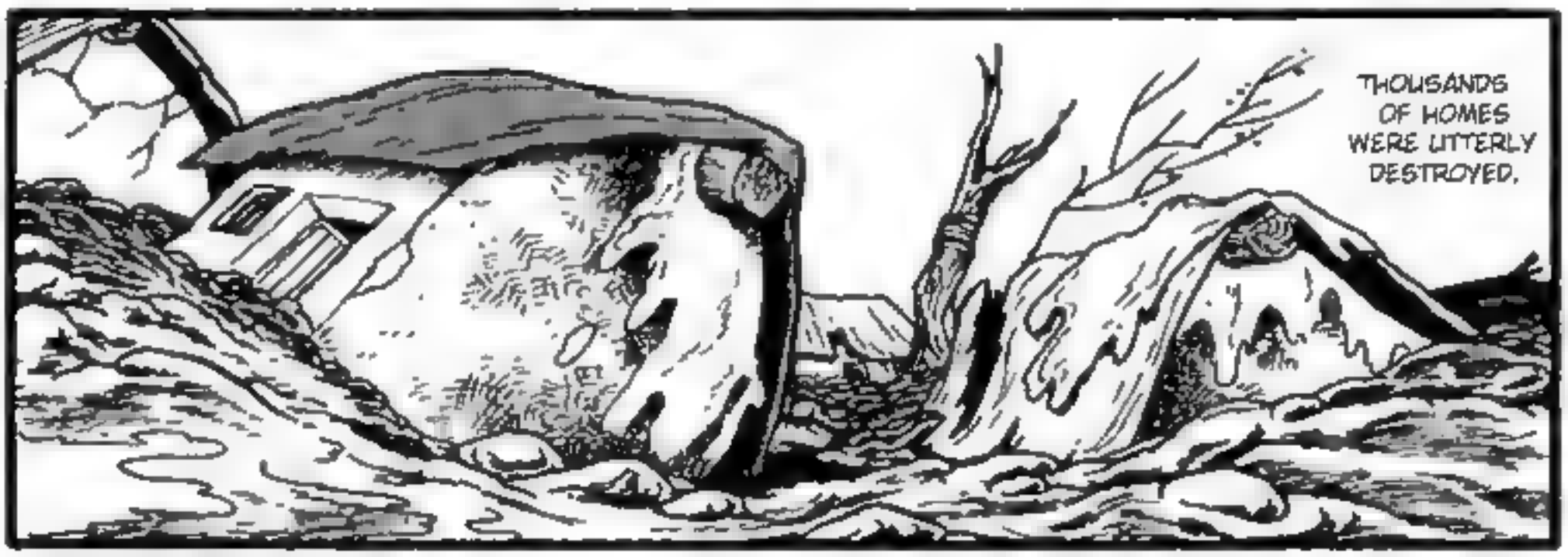
BUT THEN SUDDENLY, STORM CLOUDS DARKENED THE SKIES,

HUGE HAIL-
STORMS
WREAKED
HAVOC UPON
THE PALACE.

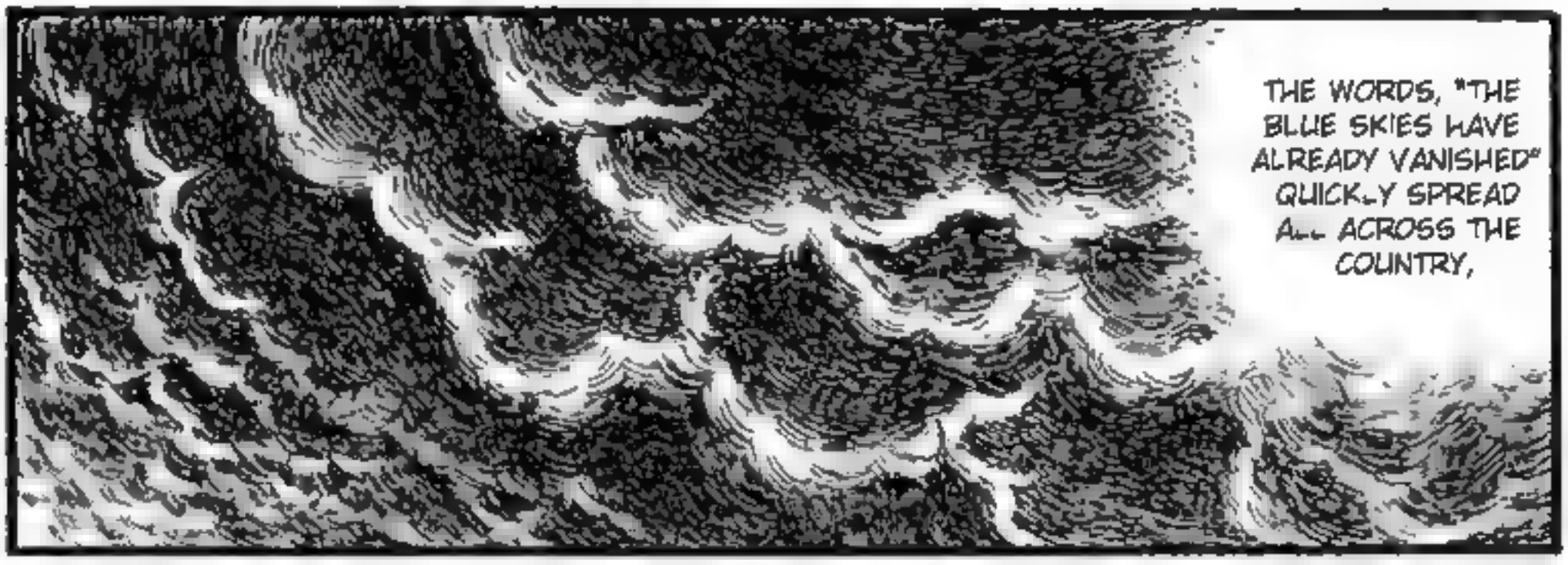

AND THEN FOR
3 DAYS AND 3
NIGHTS, IT
CEASELESSLY
RAINED.


THE STREETS OF LUOYANG FLOODED,

SEVERAL TENS OF THOUSANDS STAYED SUBMERGED,


THOUSANDS OF HOMES WERE UTTERLY DESTROYED,

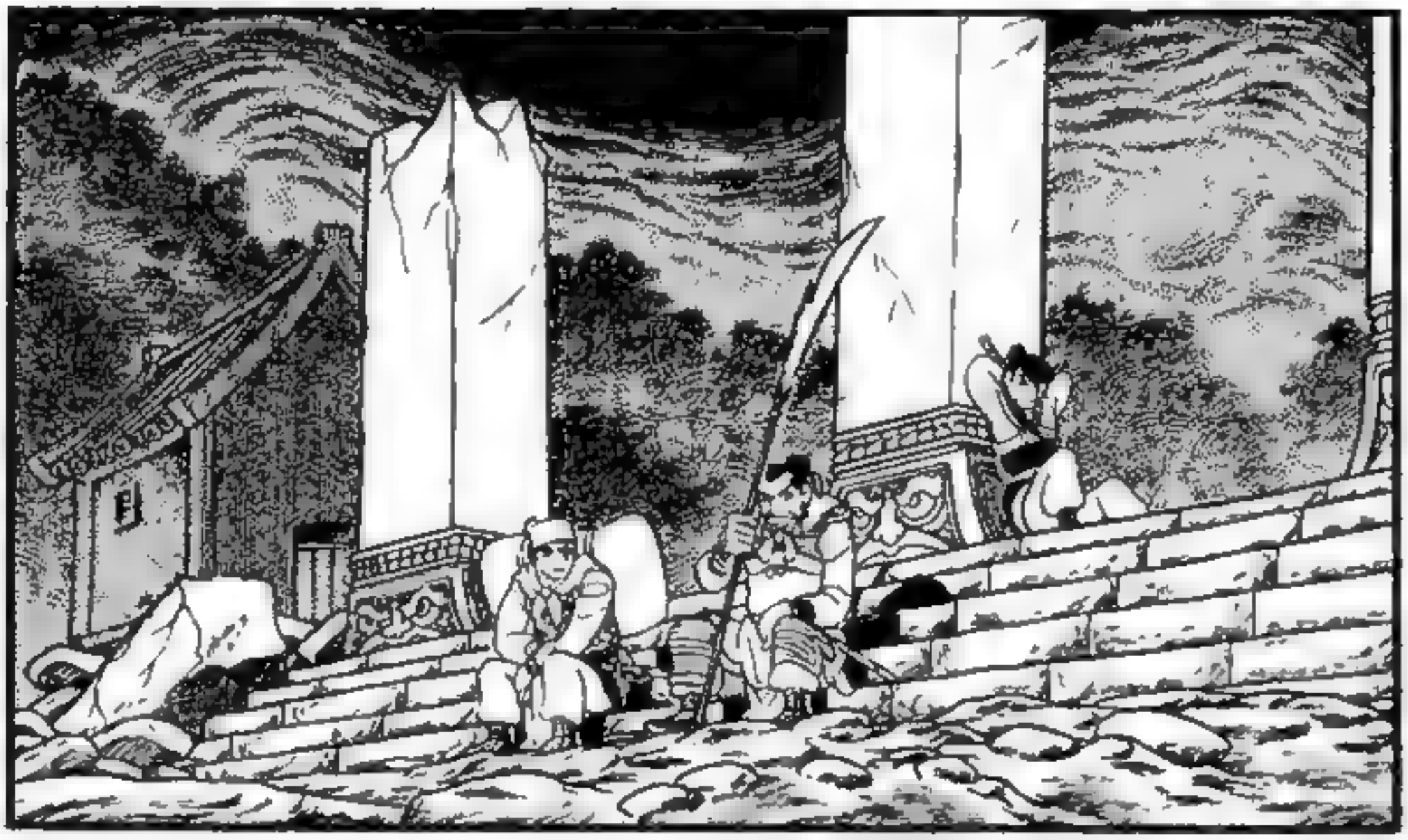
AND COUNTLESS OF PEOPLE DROWNED TO DEATH OR WERE SEVERLY INJURED AND STARVING. THE SURVI-VORS WERE AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO DO.


THE WORDS, "THE BLUE SKIES HAVE ALREADY VANISHED" QUICKLY SPREAD ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY,

MANY PEOPLE SOON VIEWED JOINING THE YELLOW SCARF REBELS AS THE SAME AS FOLLOWING THE WILL OF HEAVEN. BIT BY BIT, THEY GAVE AWAY TO SENSELESS PILLAGING AND SLAUGHTER.

THE REBELS' INFLUENCE NOW STRECHES ACROSS THE PROVINCES OF QINGZHOU, YOUZHOU, XUZHOU, JIZHOU, JINGZHOU, YANGZHOU, YUZHOU, AND YANZHOU.

LADY FUYOU



SOON, THE HAN DYNASTY WILL END AND OUR TIME WILL COME.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK? THAT STORY IS OF HOW WE CAME TO BE AND THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THIS LAND.

THEN WHO WILL BECOME THE NEXT EMPEROR?

NO, ZHANG JIAO HAS NO SUCH INTENTIONS.

THEN, WILL THIS ZHANG JIAO BECOME THE NEW EMPEROR?

HMM,

BUT THAT'S ONLY IF MY MOTHER ALLOWS IT.

ALRIGHT, I'LL JOIN YOU THEN.

THAT, I CANNOT SAY UNTIL YOU JOIN US.

WHY MUST WE DISCUSS THE MATTER OF OUR COUNTRY'S NEXT EMPEROR WITH A FOREIGN COUNTRY?

HA HA, THAT SHOWS YOU'RE STILL NAIVE.

WHAT!

WELL OK THEN, LET ME TELL YOU. WHO THE NEXT EMPEROR WILL BE IS A MATTER THAT MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH THE MONGOLS.

JUST HOW DO YOU THINK WE WERE ABLE TO FINANCE THIS REBELLION?

WHICH IS WHY WE WON'T LOSE THIS BATTLE NO MATTER WHAT. A NEW ERA WILL DEFINITELY COME.

YOU MEAN IT WAS A FOREIGN COUNTRY THAT HAS BEEN SUPPORTING THE YELLOW SCARVES FROM BEHIND?

UNDERSTAND? IF YOU JOIN THE YELLOW SCARVES, YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO MOVE UP IN THIS WORLD.

HMM?

HEEY, OVER HERE!!

MY COMRADES!

AH.

AH WELL, WE HEARD THAT SOME YOUNG FELLOW BOUGHT TEA FROM THE LUOYANG SHIP SO WE'RE CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR HIM.

YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE.
AH, SO YOU WERE HERE, SIR.

HMM, WHAT DID THIS MAN WITH THE EXPENSIVE TEA LOOK LIKE?
SINCE OUR LEADER ZHANG JIAO LOVES TEA, WE THOUGHT OFFERING TEA TO HIM WOULD BE A GREAT IDEA.

WELL, I PERSONALLY DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE BUT ACCORDING TO AN UNDERLING OF MINE, HE WAS APPARENTLY DRESSED QUITE SHABBILY BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING FAINTLY REFINED ABOUT HIM.
I CAUGHT THIS GUY TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE PORT.
OH.
COULD IT PERHAPS BE THIS MAN HERE?
ALRIGHT, WE'LL CHECK.
WHAT IS IT VICE-CAPTAIN?
YES, COMING!
CHOUBOU*!

TO THINK THAT HE'D BE HERE...

AH, YES, YES!!

WAS THIS THE MAN WHO BOUGHT THE TEA?

IS THAT SO? WELL HOW FORTUNATE THAT I MET YOU THEN.

NOW QUIETLY HAND OVER THAT TEA TO US SO WE CAN PRESENT IT TO OUR LEADER.

WE WON'T HESITATE TO HURT YA, KID.

WELL!?

MUST I HAND OVER THIS TEA THAT I BOUGHT WITH THE MONEY I SAVED UP ALL YEAR LONG TO MAKE MY MOTHER HAPPY...?

YOU LITTLE PRICK!

LET'S TEACH HIM A LESSON THEN.

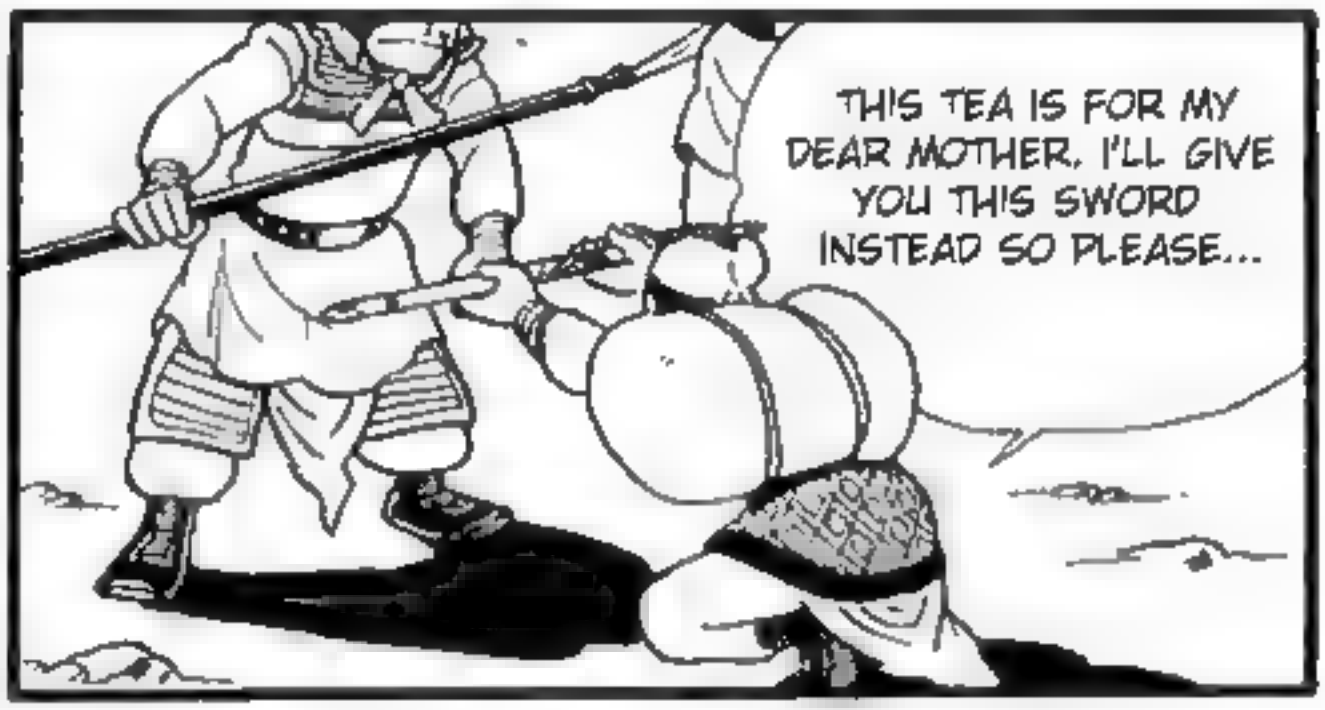
THIS GUY'S BRAVER THAN I THOUGHT.

UGH

PLEASE TREASURE YOUR LIFE UNTIL THE RIGHT TIME COMES.
YOU ARE THE ONE THAT WILL CHASE AWAY THE DEMONS AND BRING BACK LIGHT UPON THIS WORLD.

S-SIR...

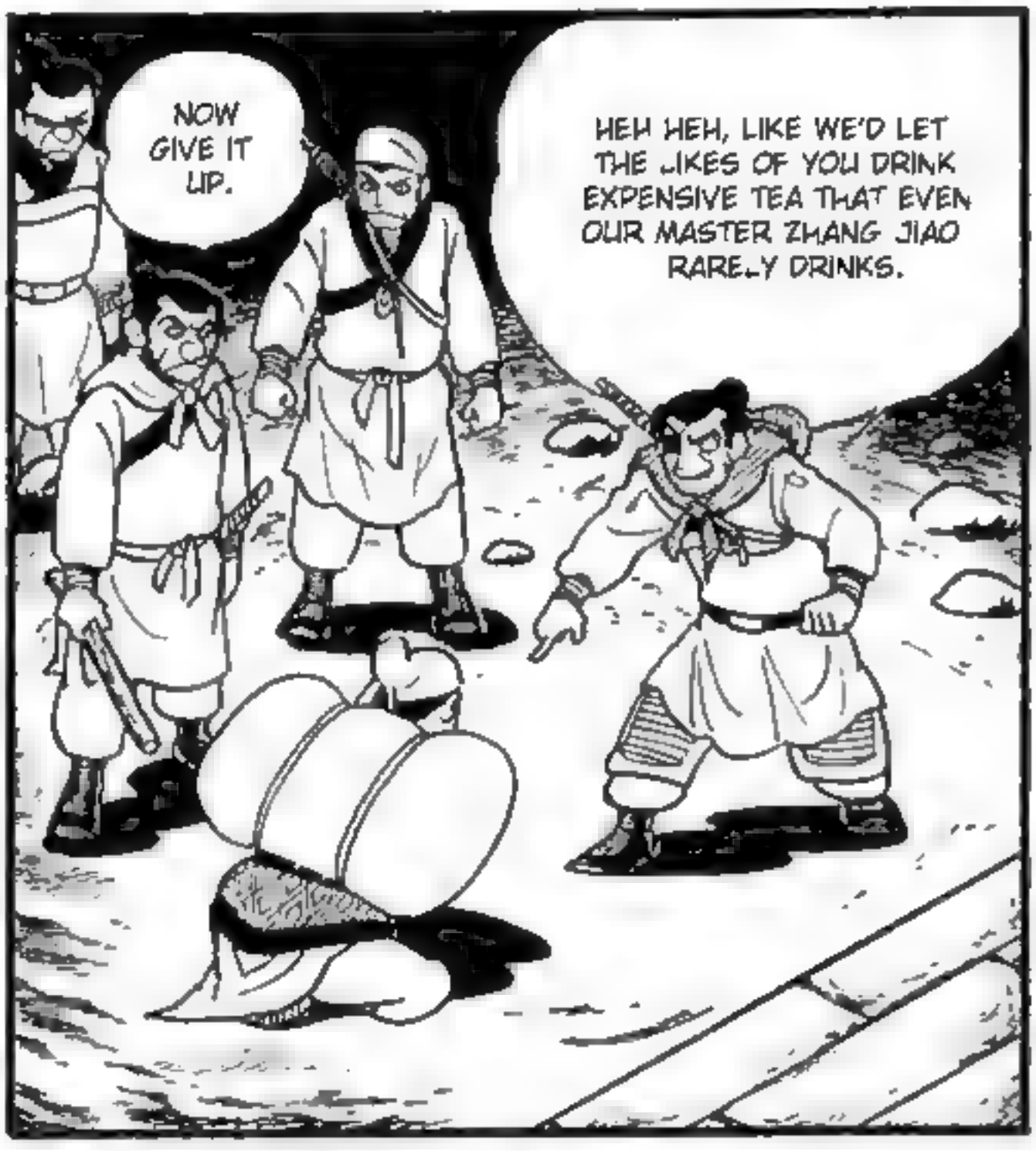
HMM, WELL I DID HAVE AN EYE ON THAT SWORD.

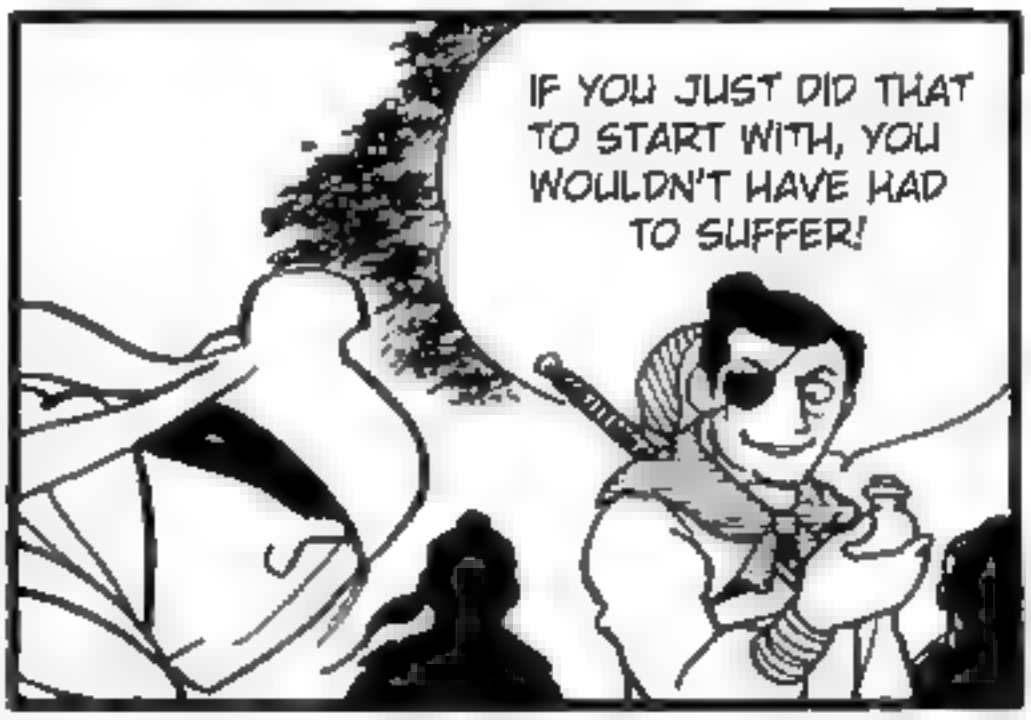

THIS TEA IS FOR MY DEAR MOTHER. I'LL GIVE YOU THIS SWORD INSTEAD SO PLEASE...

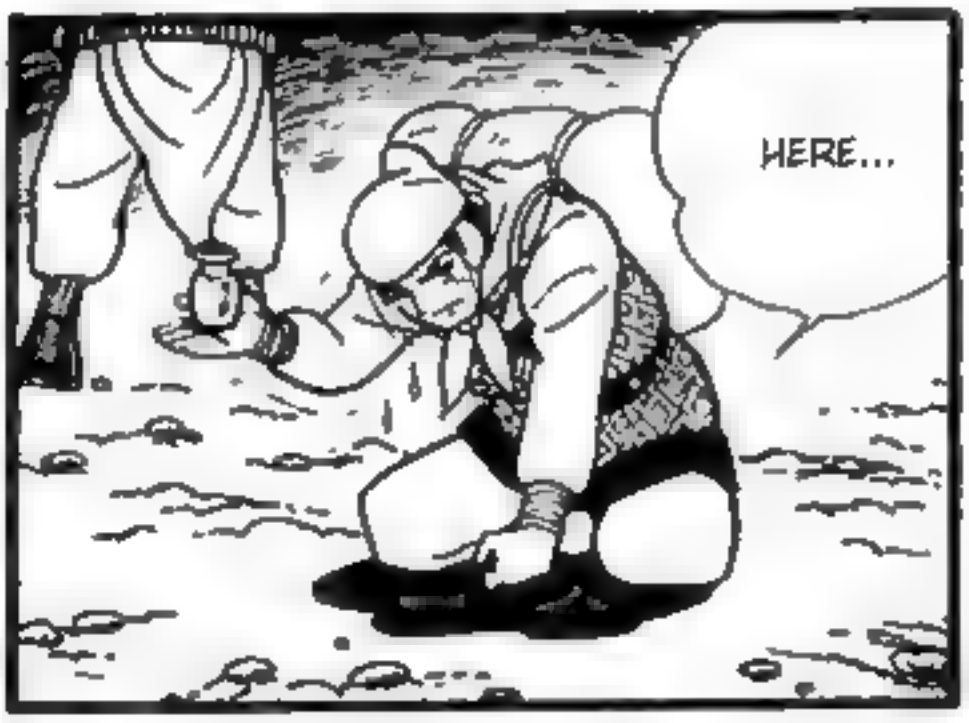
WELL, I'M GOING TO BE OVER THERE SO WHATEVER HAPPENS IS NOT MY AFFAIR ANYMORE.

ALRIGHT, I'LL TAKE YOUR SWORD AND FORGET ABOUT THE TEA.

MY MEN HAVE A RATHER SHORT TEMPER.


NOW GIVE IT UP.
HEH HEH, LIKE WE'D LET THE LIKES OF YOU DRINK EXPENSIVE TEA THAT EVEN OUR MASTER ZHANG JIAO RARELY DRINKS.


IF YOU JUST DID THAT TO START WITH, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO SUFFER!


HERE...

YES, SIR.

ALRIGHT, WE'RE SPENDING THE NIGHT OUT HERE, SO LOCK THIS GUY UP IN THAT STORAGE OVER THERE.

GET IN.

WELL, JUST TRY NOT TO LEAVE ANY REGRETS.

YOUR FATE WILL BE DECIDED TOMORROW.

THERE WERE STILL OTHER WAYS TO SHOW CARE TOWARDS MY MOTHER...

IF I JUST HAD NOT COME TO THIS PLACE, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED.

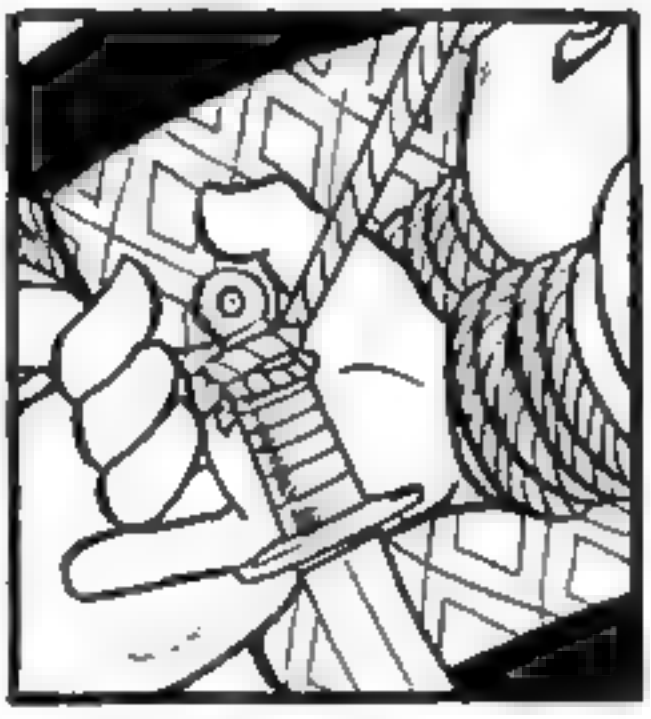
I THOUGHT I'D BRING JOY TO MY MOTHER BY BUYING HER TEA, BUT IT SEEMS THAT I'LL ONLY BE BRINGING HER GRIEF WITH MY DEATH.

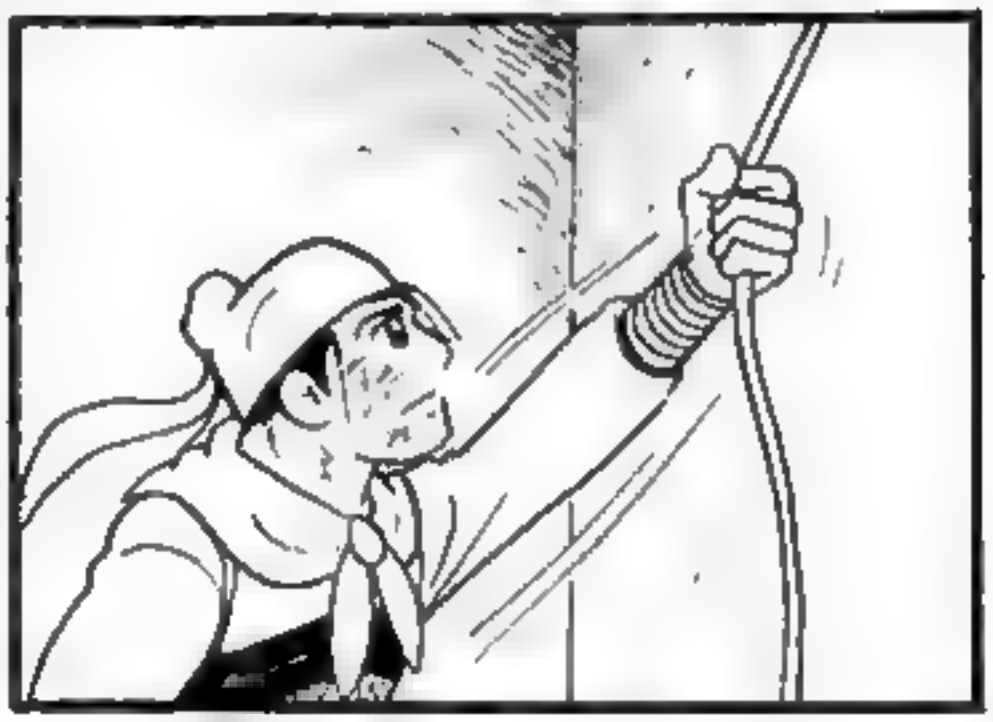
HMM?

I WONDER WHO'S HELPING ME?

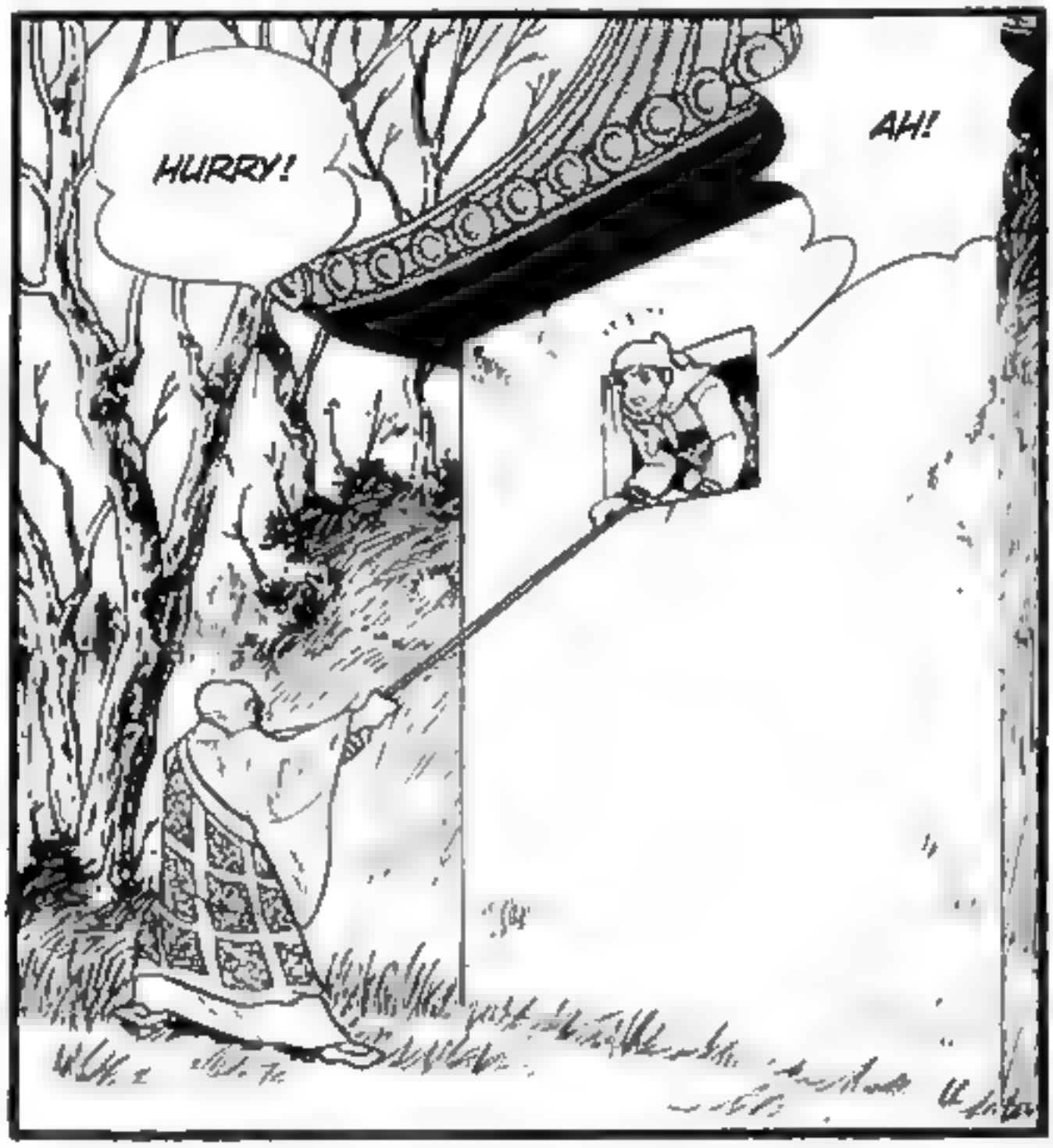
AH!

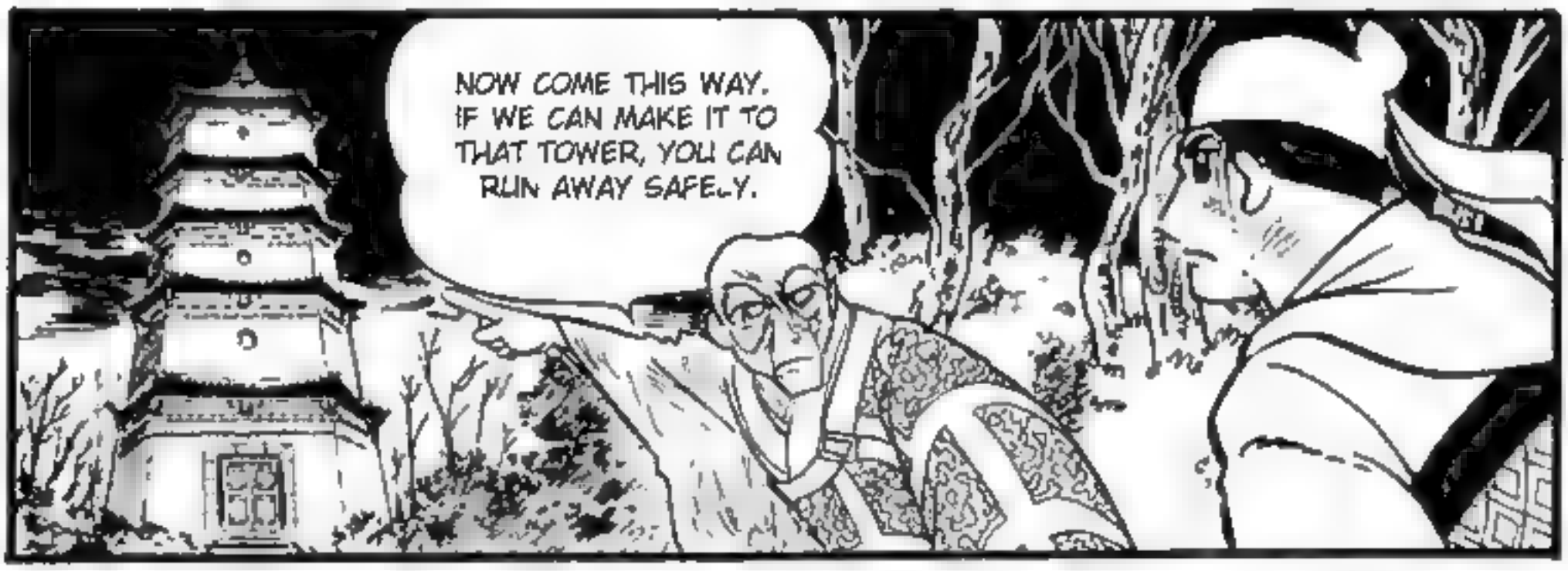
IT'S CUT.

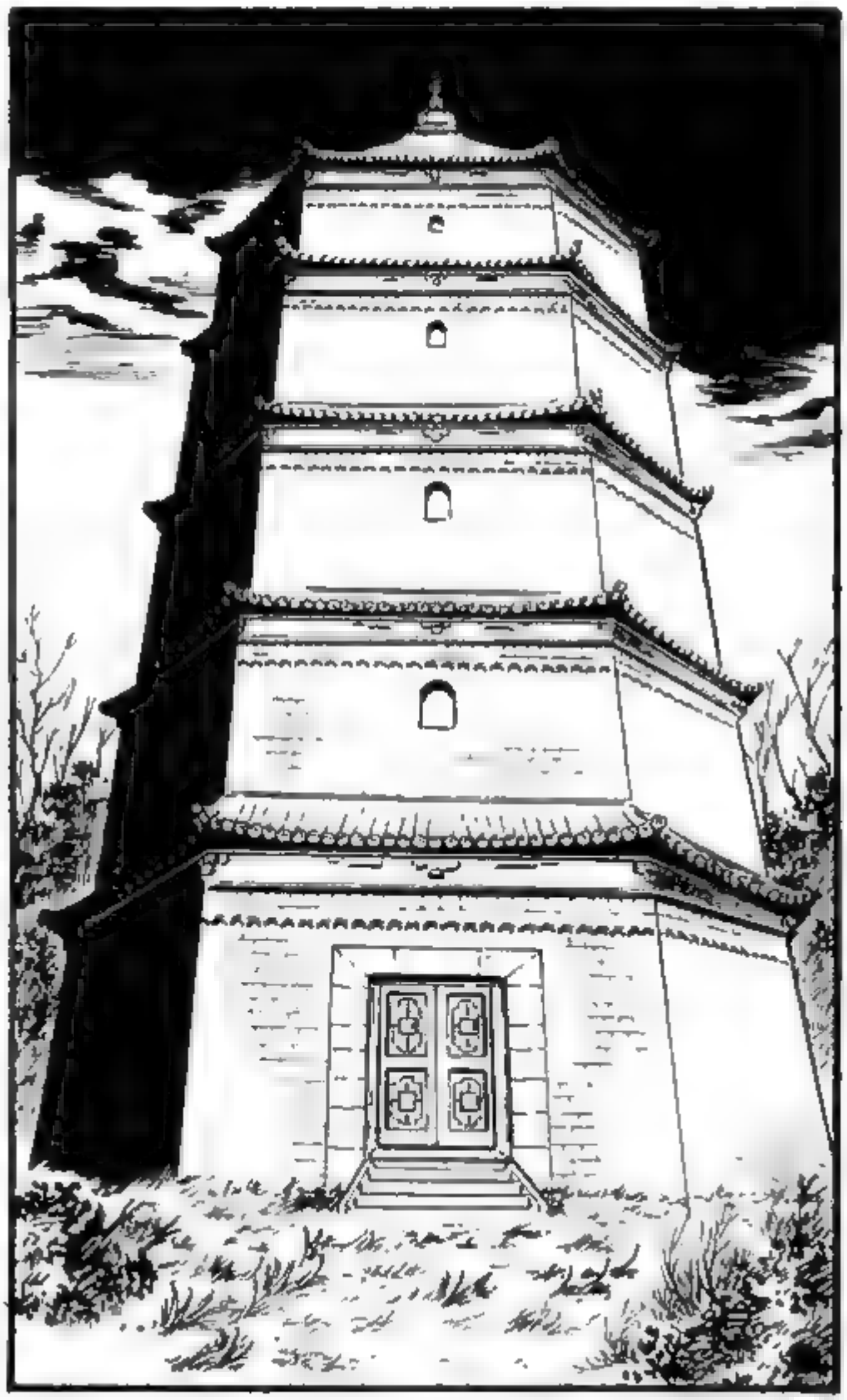




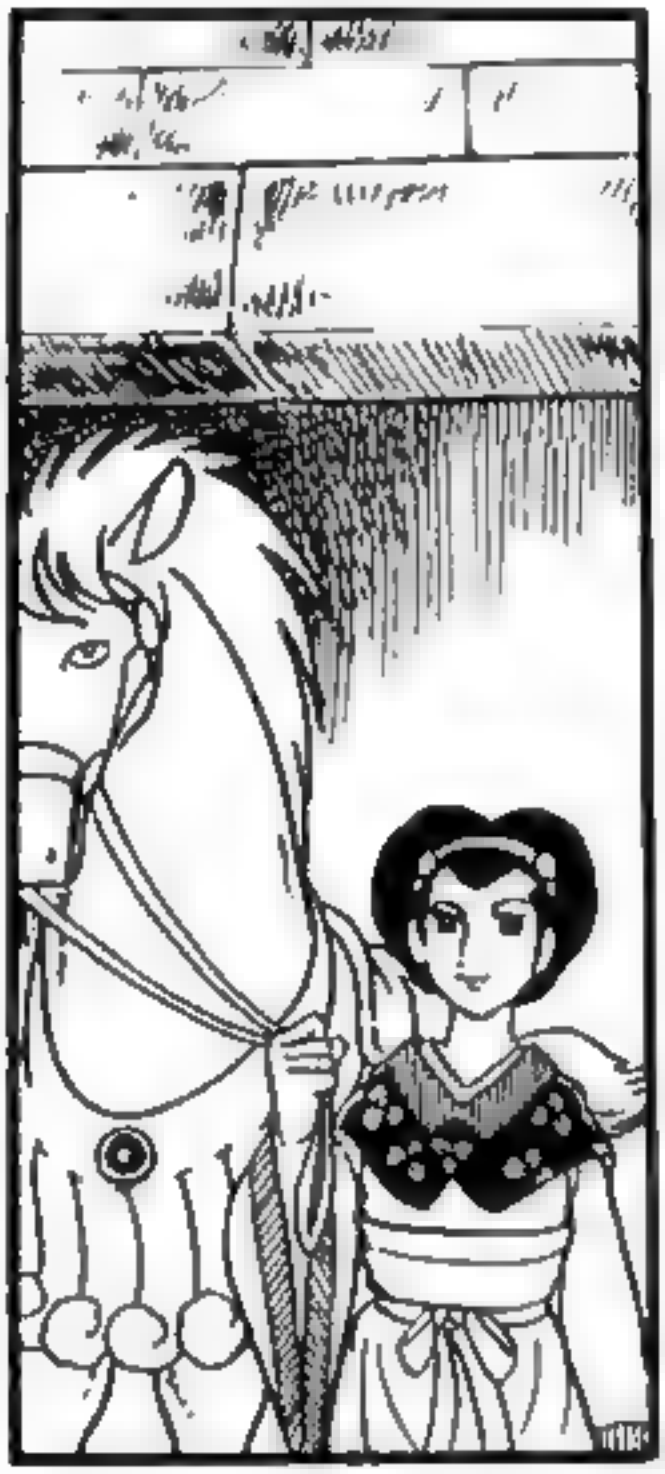
SO IT WAS YOU, SIR.


HURRY!
AH!

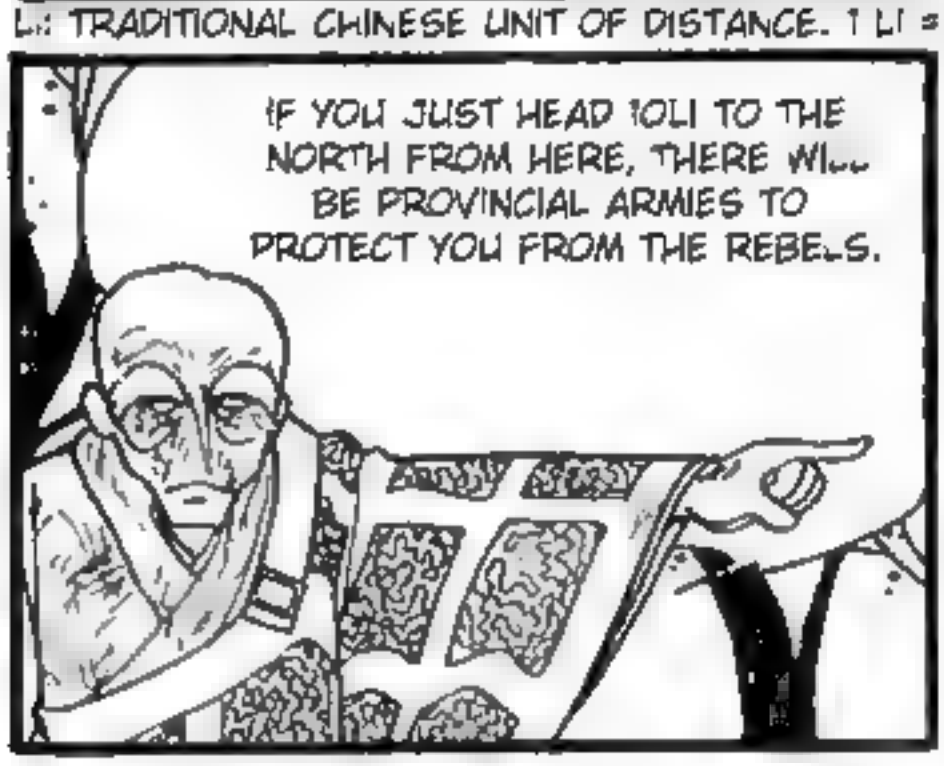

NOW COME THIS WAY. IF WE CAN MAKE IT TO THAT TOWER, YOU CAN RUN AWAY SAFELY.



PLEASE WAIT JUST A MOMENT.



LI: TRADITIONAL CHINESE UNIT OF DISTANCE. 1 LI = 0.5KM



AS YOU CAN SEE, WHEN THE REBELS' ATTACKED THE CASTLE AND KILLED THE LORD, SHE WAS SPLIT APART FROM THE REST OF HER FAMILY. I HID HER IN THIS TOWER TO KEEP HER SAFE UNTIL NOW.
THIS LADY IS THE DAUGHTER OF THIS PREFECTURE'S LORD, KNOWN AS LADY FUYOU*.

OF COURSE. I SHALL TAKE HER WITH ME.

I ASK OF YOU TO ESCORT HER TO A SAFE PLACE.

AH!

OH, NOW YOU CAN FINALLY RELAX, MILADY.

THEY'VE FOUND OUT!

HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN VERY FAR, FIND HIM!!

HE ESCAPED!

I SHALL GO ABOVE TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER AND SEE WHERE THEY ARE AT.

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT. IF YOU TRY TO LEAVE SO SUDDENLY, YOU MIGHT BE CAUGHT BY THEM.

MILADY, PLEASE GET ON THE HORSE.

YOUNG MAN, RUN OFF IN THE DIRECTION I'M POINTING TO!

YES, I CAN SEE NOW WHICH WAY THEY'RE MOVING TO.

IF YOU FOLLOW THE BIG DIPPER, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SAFELY ESCAPE.

I AM JUST AN OLD MAN WITH NO MORE REGRETS IN LIFE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I NO LONGER WISH TO CONTINUE THIS LIFE SUSTAINED BY EATING RATS AND SALAMANDERS.

AND I'VE NOW LEFT MILADY IN YOUR SAFE HANDS.

YES.

MILADY,

NOW GO!

FAREWELL.

OOHHH, WHAT A GALLANT FORM!

RIDING ON A WHITE HORSE, HE WILL VANQUISH THE YELLOW DEMONS...!

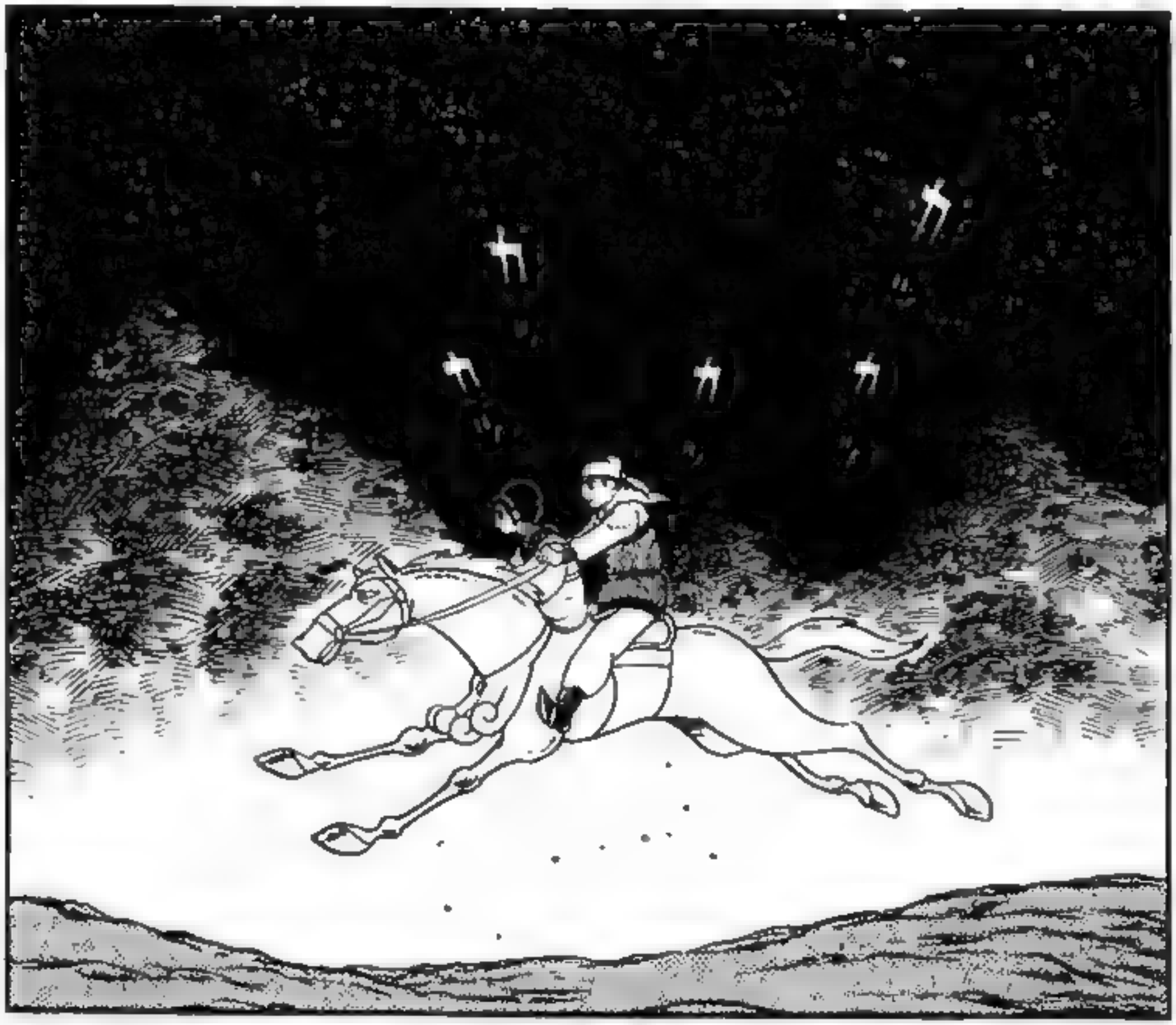
LOOK, LOOK! THE DARK CLOUDS WILL NOW VANISH AND THE BRIGHT STARS WILL SHINE.

A TRUE SAVIOUR HAS AT LAST APPEARED!

HOWEVER, ON HIS CORPSE THERE WAS A FAINT SMILE.

AFTER YELLING LIKE THUS, THE PRIEST THREW HIMSELF OFF THE TOWER.

ZHANG FEI



ピュ〜

ピュ〜

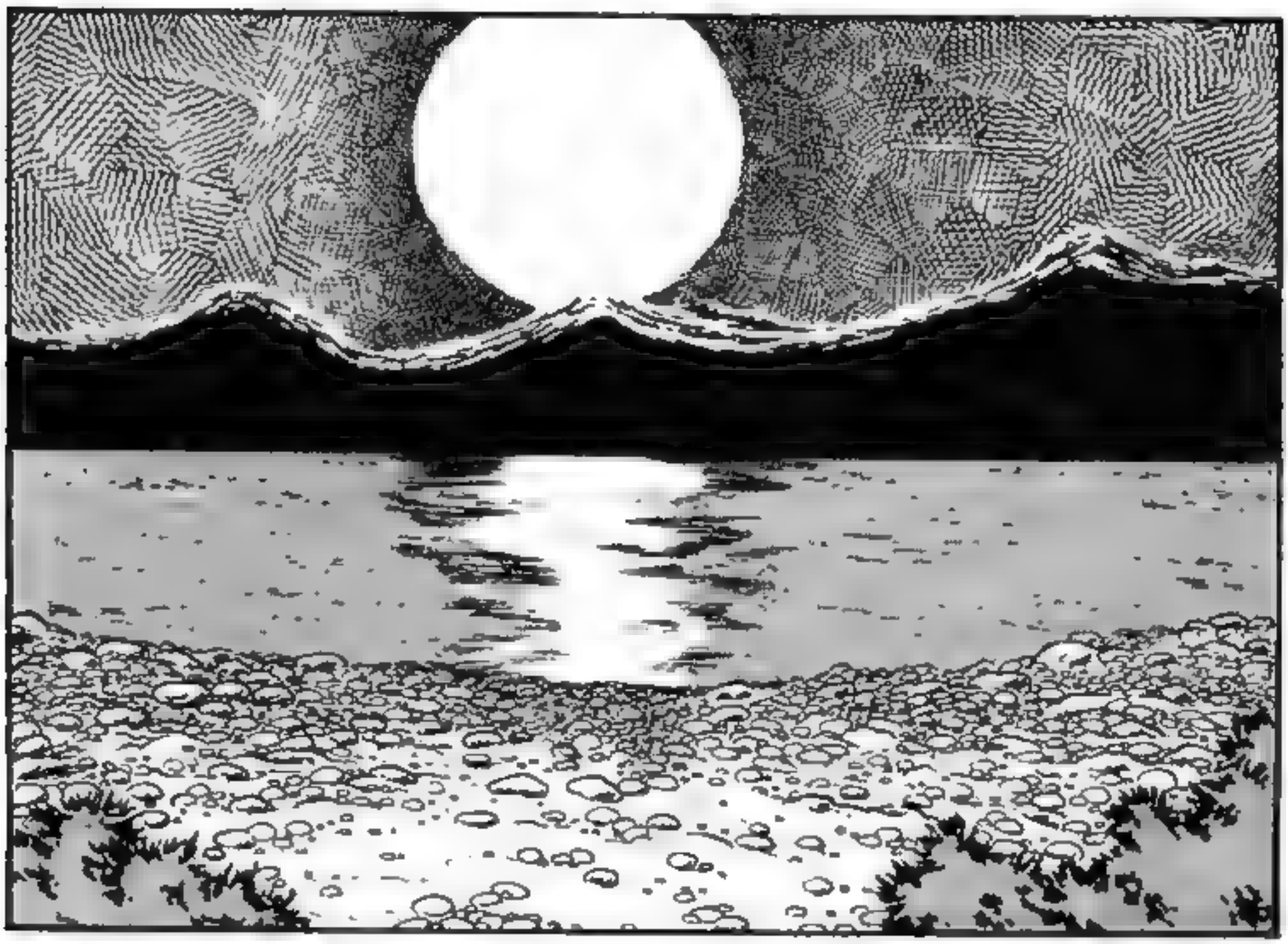
DAMN IT, WE CAN'T CATCH THEM LIKE THIS!

CHASE AFTER THEM!

IF WE CAN JUST MAKE IT TO THE RIVER, THE PROVINCIAL ARMY WILL BE THERE AS THE PRIEST SAID.

NO NEED TO WORRY, WE'LL BE FINE.

THEY'RE COMING AFTER US!



AH!
THERE ISN'T EVEN A SINGLE SOLDIER HERE!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

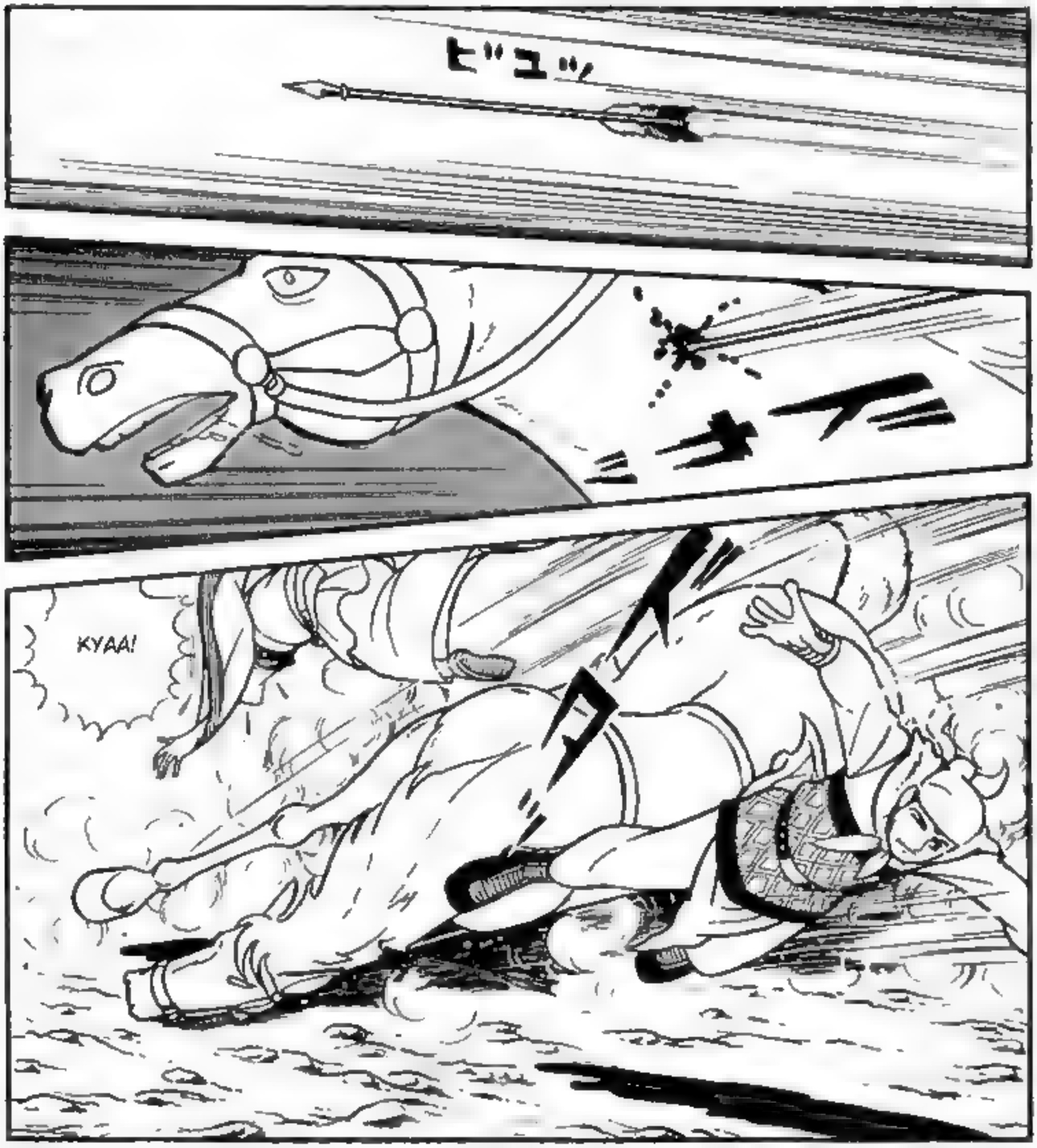
THEN LET US RUN AWAY AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

THEY MAY HAVE BEEN SCARED AWAY BY THE YELLOW SCARVES ALREADY.

COME ON!

STILL STRUGGLING, HUH ..?

WAIT!


ヒュン
KYAA!

AH!

UGH

I'LL TAKE AT LEAST ONE OR TWO OF YOU DOWN WITH ME.

COME, I WON'T GO WITHOUT A FIGHT.

WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF THAT WOMAN SO DON'T WORRY.

JEEZ, WHAT A TROUBLE-SOME ONE.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU FOUND HER BUT SHE'S PRETTY CUTE, HAHAHA.

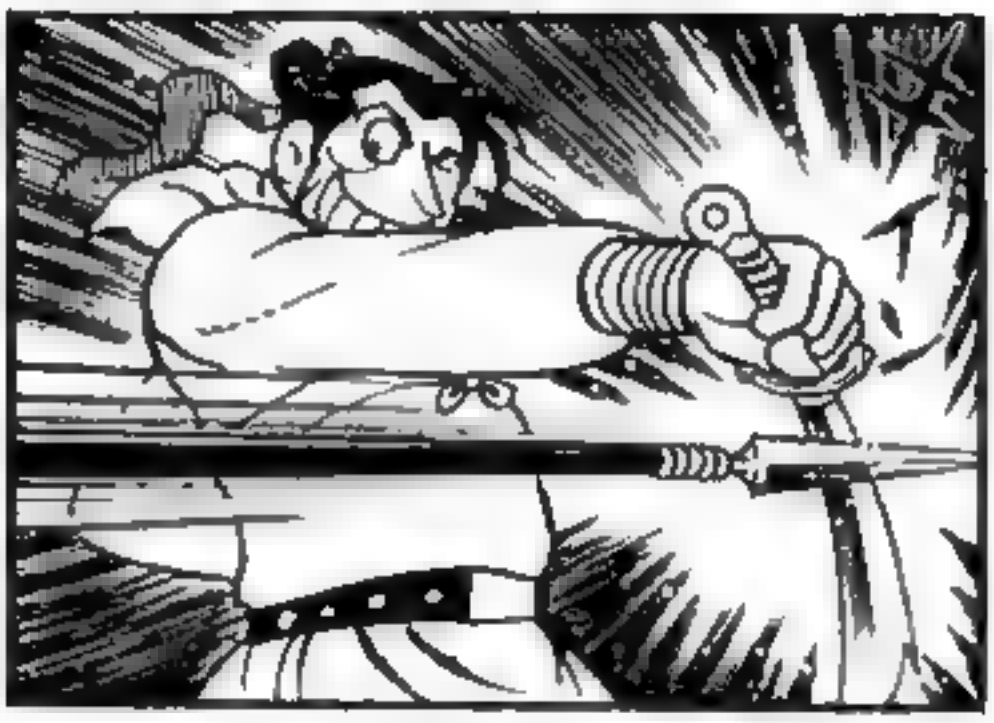
GUH

YOU'VE DONE IT NOW...

BAST-ARD...

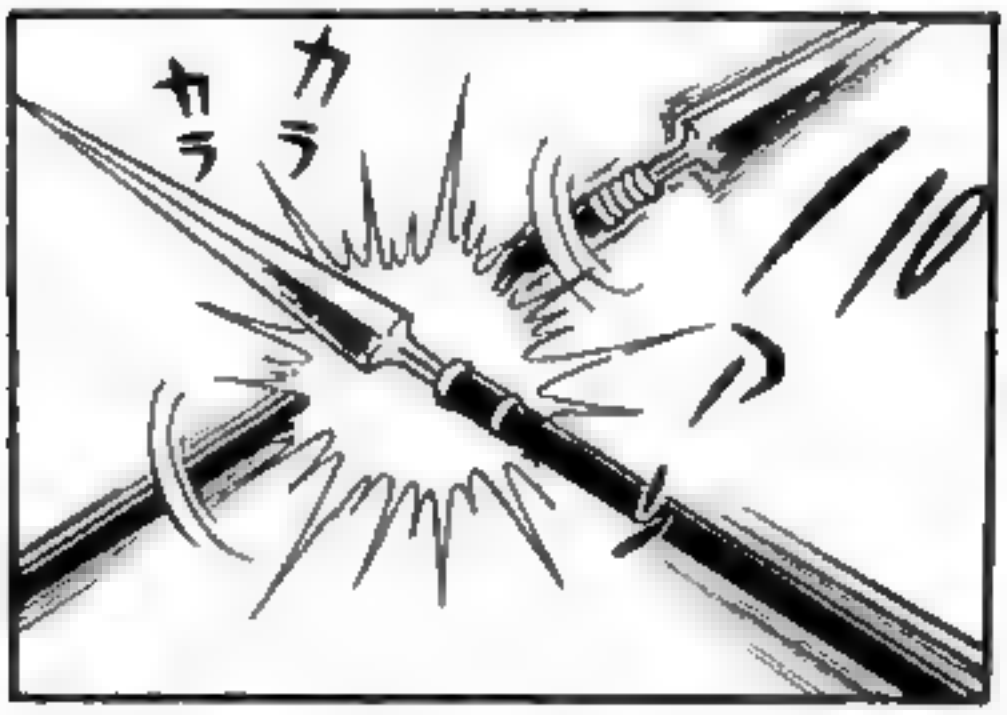
COME!

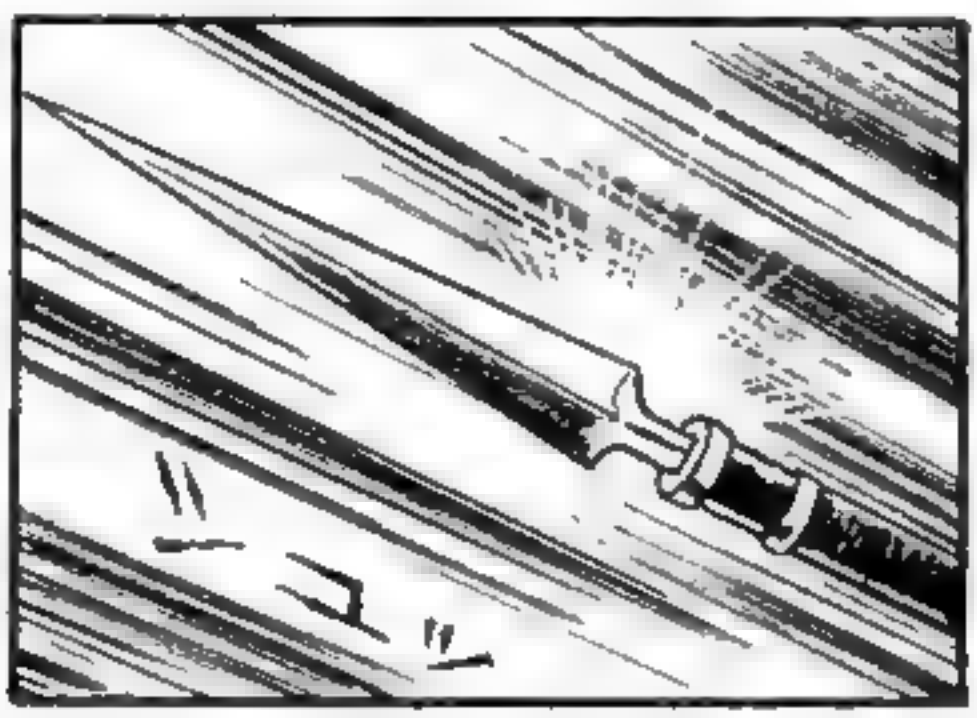
I'LL KILL YOU!



HOW TO PROPERLY USE A SPEAR!
LET ME TEACH YOU...

HEH HEH HEH, YOU THINK I'D BE DONE IN BY A GREENHORN LIKE YOU?


カラ
カラ



ﾚｵｵｵ

...
IF IT ISN'T THE NEWCOMER, ZHANG FEI.

WHAT'S WRONG?

STOP!

BUT ANYWAYS, YOU CAN'T KILL THAT MAN. JUST PLEASE HAND HIM OVER TO ME.
HAH... HAH... IT WAS QUITE DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW AFTER YOU WITHOUT A HORSE...

HAHA WELL, MINE, I GUESS...

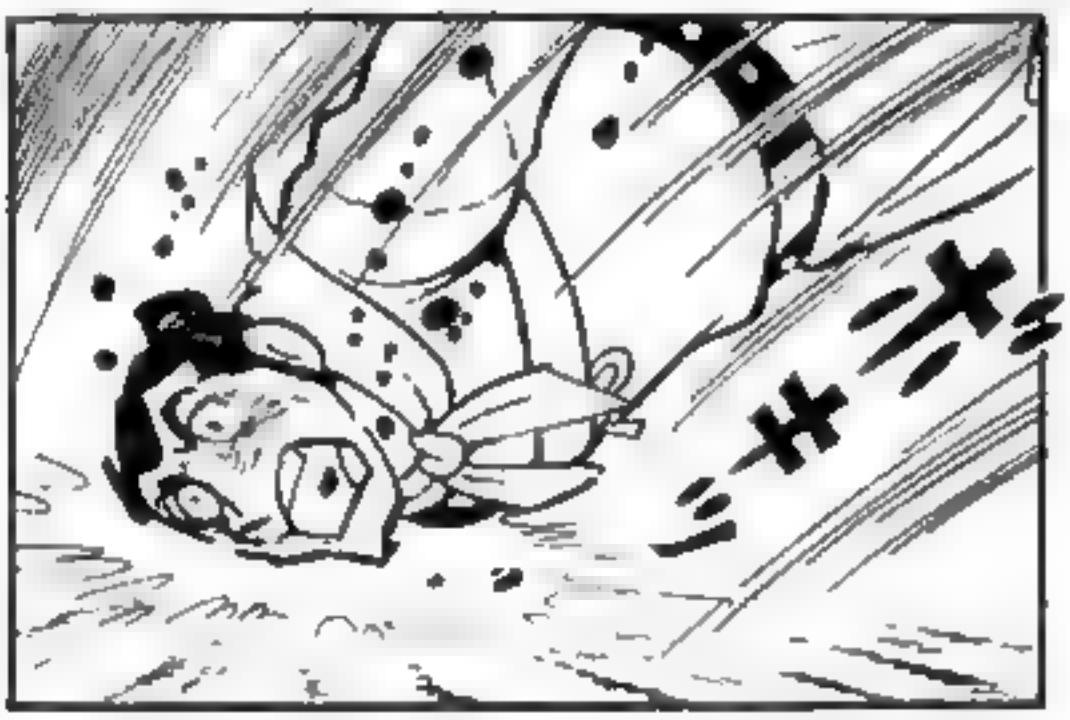
ON WHOSE ORDER IS THAT?
WHAT!?

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!

HEH HEH
WHAT!? JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ORDERING YOUR SUPERIOR AROUND!?

ゴーカ

AH!



YOU'LL BE TRIED AND EXECUTED!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT KILLING A COMRADE MEANS?

ZHANG FEI, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND!?

YOU CALLING US DOGS!?

WHAT!!

HAHA, AS IF I'D EVER BE EXECUTED BY DOGS LIKE YOU!

WELL OF COURSE! IS THERE EVEN ONE AMONG YOU THAT AT LEAST ACTS A LITTLE LIKE A PROPER HUMAN?

EAT THIS!

YOU BASTARD!

AGHHH!

AGHHH!

WHAT MONSTEROUS STRENGTH...

NO... WAY..

PSH, CAN'T EVEN PROPERLY CUT DOWN A MAN WITH THIS.

I WON'T SAY ANY-THING BAD SO IT'D BE BEST FOR YOU TO JUST RUN AWAY.

YOU STILL FEEL LIKE TAKING ME ON?

SO YOU WERE WORKING FOR THE KOU FAMILY!?

WHAT!?

GO BACK AND REPORT TO YOUR SUPERIORS THAT YOU HANDED OVER THIS YOUNG MAN AND LADY FUYOU TO ZHANG FEI, WHO PRETENDED TO SURRENDER AND JOIN THE YELLOW SCARF REBELS WHEN THE CASTLE BURNED AND MOST OF THE KOU* FAMILY WERE KILLED, SAVE FOR MILADY.

THE NAME IS ZHANG FEI, OF THE COURTESY NAME: YIDE.

HAHA, YES THAT IS HOW IT IS.

COURTESY NAME IS A GIVEN NAME, AS A SYMBOL OF ADULTHOOD AND RESPECT IN CHINESE CULTURE.

AND TO HAVE MY VENGEANCE, I PRETENDED TO JOIN YOU.

WHILE I WAS OUTSIDE THE CASTLE, MY LORD WAS KILLED BY YOU LOT.

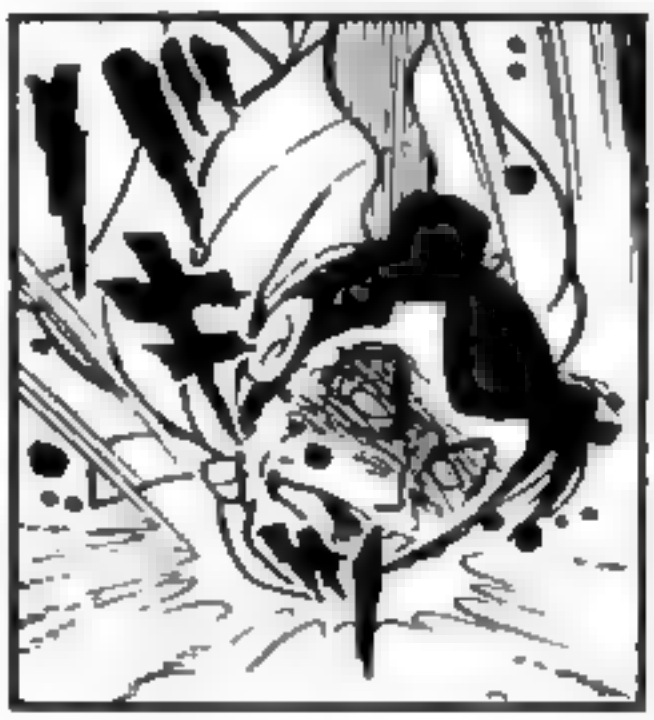
AGHH!

UGH, HOW DARE YOU DECEIVE US! WE WON'T LET YOU LIVE!

GWAH!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU ALL WITH MY BARE FISTS.

HAHA, THERE ISN'T EVEN A NEED TO DRAW MY SWORD TO DEAL WITH YOU PATHETIC DOGS.



I WARNED YOU TO JUST RUN AWAY INSTEAD OF DYING MEANINGLESSLY.

HAHA, OVER ALREADY?

YES, THANKS TO YOUR HELP.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

AND YOUR SWORD...

NOW THEN, HERE'S THE TEA...

I JUST SNATCHED IT WHILE THEIR CAPTAIN WAS SLEEPING.

HOW DID YOU ..?

I AM JUST REPONDING BACK TO YOUR BRAVERY AND SENSE OF JUSTICE.

DON'T MENTION IT, YOU PUT YOURSELF AT RISK TO SAVE MILADY AS WELL.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

NOW EVERY-THING WILL BE FINE, MILADY.

YES, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT...?

WAIT, YOUR NAME WAS ZHANG FEI, AM I CORRECT?

WHAT?

BUT I WISH TO GIVE YOU THIS SWORD AS A SIGN OF MY GRATITUDE.

I CANNOT GIVE YOU THIS TEA SINCE IT IS FOR MY DEAR MOTHER BUT...

YES, I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE FITTING FOR THIS SWORD TO BELONG TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

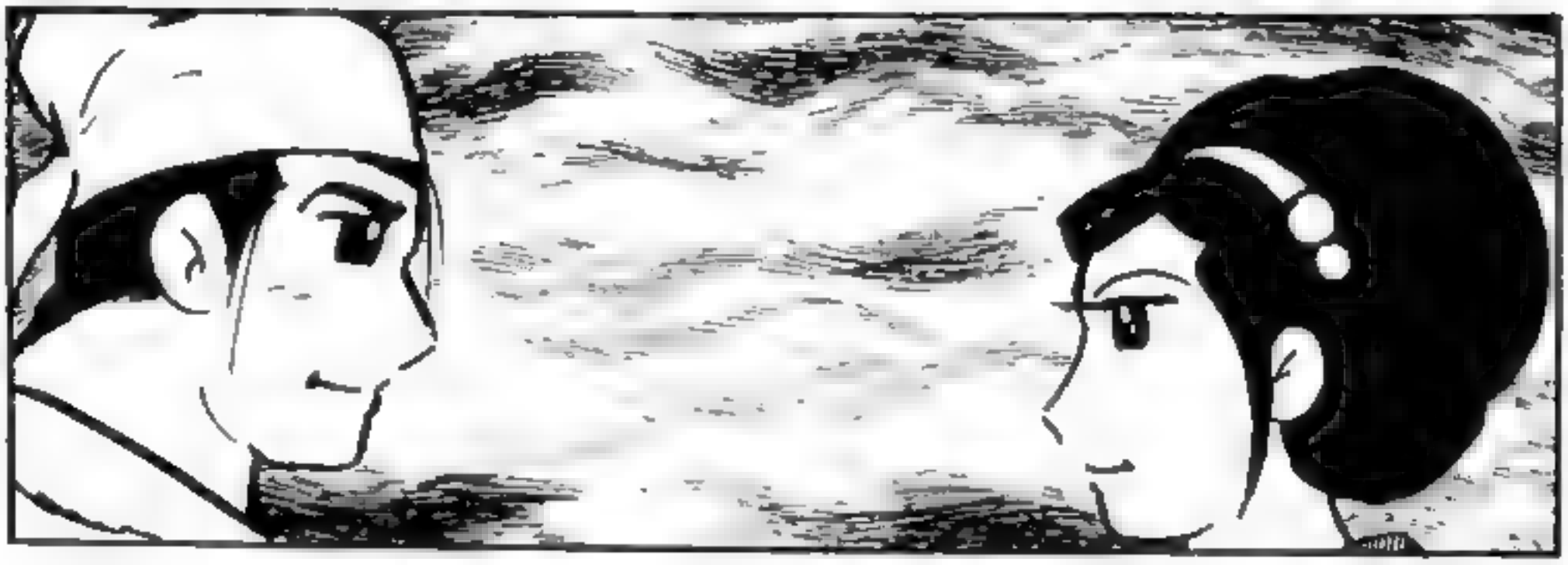
YOU'RE THIS SWORD TO ME!?

YES, PLEASE BE SURE TO USE IT FOR THE GOOD OF THIS WORLD.

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

MAGNIFICENT! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HOLD A SWORD AS SPLENDID AS THIS ONCE IN MY LIFE.

XUANDE IS HIS COURTESY NAME



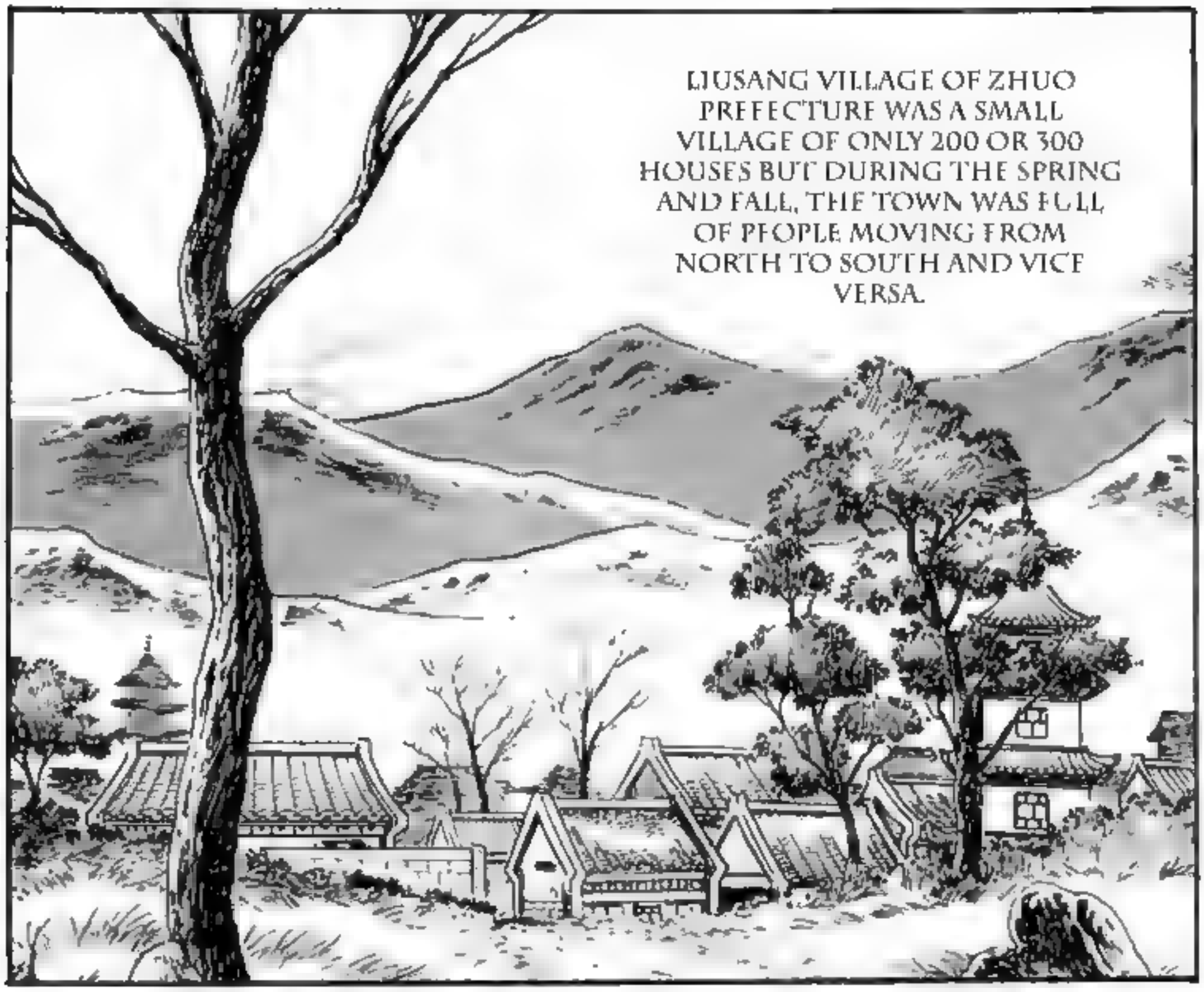
FAREWELL, LIU BEI.

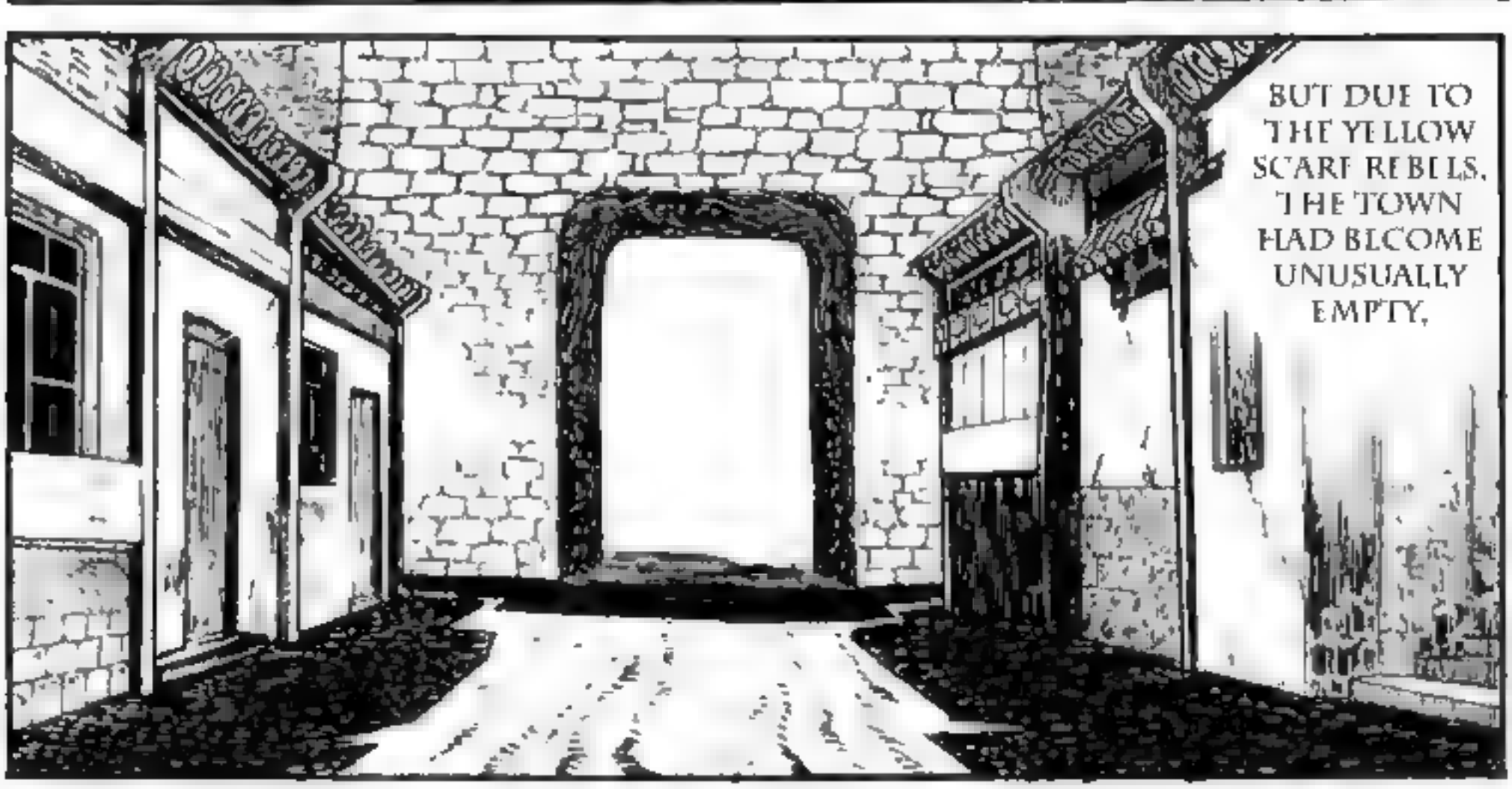
YES.

LET US HASTE MI-LADY, THERE MAY BE MORE REBELS COMING.

WHAT A BEAUTY SHE IS.

THE KING'S SWORD


LIUSANG VILLAGE OF ZHUO PREFECTURE WAS A SMALL VILLAGE OF ONLY 200 OR 300 HOUSES BUT DURING THE SPRING AND FALL, THE TOWN WAS FULL OF PEOPLE MOVING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AND VICE VERSA.



AND THE CITY GATES SHUT TIGHT WHEN THE SUN SET

PLEASE WAIT! DON'T CLOSE THE GATES JUST YET!!

YES, I JUST RETURNED BACK FROM MY TRIP.

OHH, AREN'T YOU THAT LIU BEI?

HMM?

OH THAT'S RIGHT. YOUR MOTHER SHOWED UP HERE AT THE GATES EVERYDAY WONDERING WHEN YOU'D COME BACK BUT SHE HASN'T COME SINCE 10 DAYS AGO. I WONDER IF SHE'S SICK OR SOMETHING.

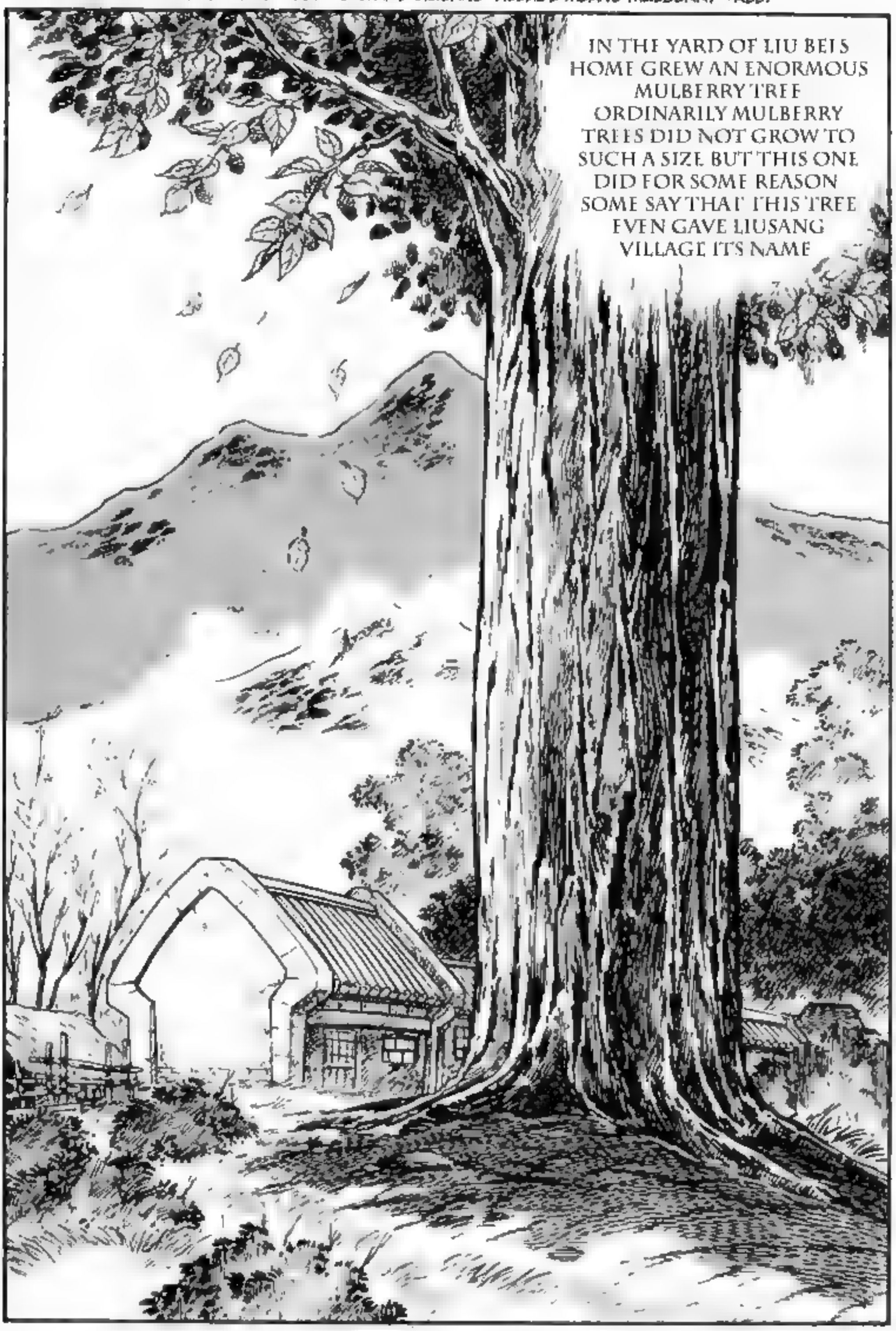
WELL THAT'S GOOD. JUST A MINUTE LATER AND YOU WOULD HAVE HAD TO SPEND THE NIGHT OUTSIDE.

WHAT AN ADMIRABLE SON, HE IS.

YES, YOU SHOULD.

I DIDN'T KNOW. I BETTER RETURN QUICKLY.

NOTE: ONE OF THE CHARACTERS USED TO WRITE LIUSANG VILLAGE MEANS MULBERRY TREE.


IN THE YARD OF LIU BEI'S HOME GREW AN ENORMOUS MULBERRY TREE
ORDINARILY MULBERRY TREES DID NOT GROW TO SUCH A SIZE BUT THIS ONE DID FOR SOME REASON
SOME SAY THAT THIS TREE EVEN GAVE LIUSANG VILLAGE ITS NAME

HMM?

SOMEONE'S COMING.

THAT VOICE IS...

MOTHER!

XUANDE!

MOTHER IT'S XUANDE. I'VE JUST ARRIVED.

MOTHER, I HEARD THAT YOU WERE ILL...

ILL...? NO, I'M QUITE FINE.

OH YOU'VE SAFELY RETURNED AT LAST. I WAS WORRIED SICK EVERY DAY WITH NEWS OF THE YE..OW SCARF REBELS ATTACKING HERE AND THERE.

WELL THAT WAS BECAUSE WITH THE RECENT TAX INCREASE, THE MONEY YOU LEFT ME WASN'T ENOUGH, SO I WAS BUSY WORKING AT HOME.

OH THAT'S A RELIEF TO HEAR. IT'S JUST THAT THE GATEKEEPER WAS WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT YOU WERE SICK.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S ALREADY BEEN 10 DAYS SINCE I WENT TO THE GATE.

THEY'RE IN THAT DES-PERATE OF A SITUATION!?

JUST WHAT IS THE WORLD COMING TO?

WELL, WHEN THE OFFICIALS CAME, THEY CARRIED OFF THE BED AND FURNITURE, SAYING THAT THEY NEEDED TO RAISE THE FUNDS TO FIGHT AGAINST THE REBELS...

BUT...WHY IS THIS ROOM SO EMPTY?

I SAVED A LITTLE BIT OF FOOD JUST IN CASE I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING WHEN YOU RETURNED.

NOW, NOW. YOU MUST BE HUNGRY SO I'LL PREPARE DINNER SHORTLY.

YOU ALWAYS SAY THE SWEETEST TH'NGS.
FROM TOMORROW ON, I'LL WORK HARD SO YOU CAN LIVE AT EASE.

I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE LEADING SUCH A TOUGH LIFESTYLE.

SOME-THING FOR ME?
OH, AND I BROUGHT YOU BACK SOMETHING WONDERFUL.

IT'S TEA FROM LUOYANG.

?

YES, THIS.

NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
B-BUT HOW DID YOU GET SUCH AN EXPENSIVE THING?

TEA!?

MY SON...

I BOUGHT IT WITH THE MONEY I HAD SAVED ALL YEAR LONG BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOUR SMILE.

OHH...

MM?

NOW, LET'S HAVE DINNER.

THIS...?

W-WHOSE SWORD IS THAT?

Y-YOU DIDN'T SELL OFF THAT SWORD RIGHT?

WELL, THAT'S...

TELL ME THE TRUTH. JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SWORD THAT WAS HANDED DOWN TO YOU BY YOUR FOREFATHERS?

WELL, DURING MY TRIP I WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE BY THE YELLOW SCARVES BUT THEN A GREAT MAN BY THE NAME OF ZHANG FEI CAME AND RESCUED ME. I GAVE HIM THE SWORD AS A SIGN OF THANKS.

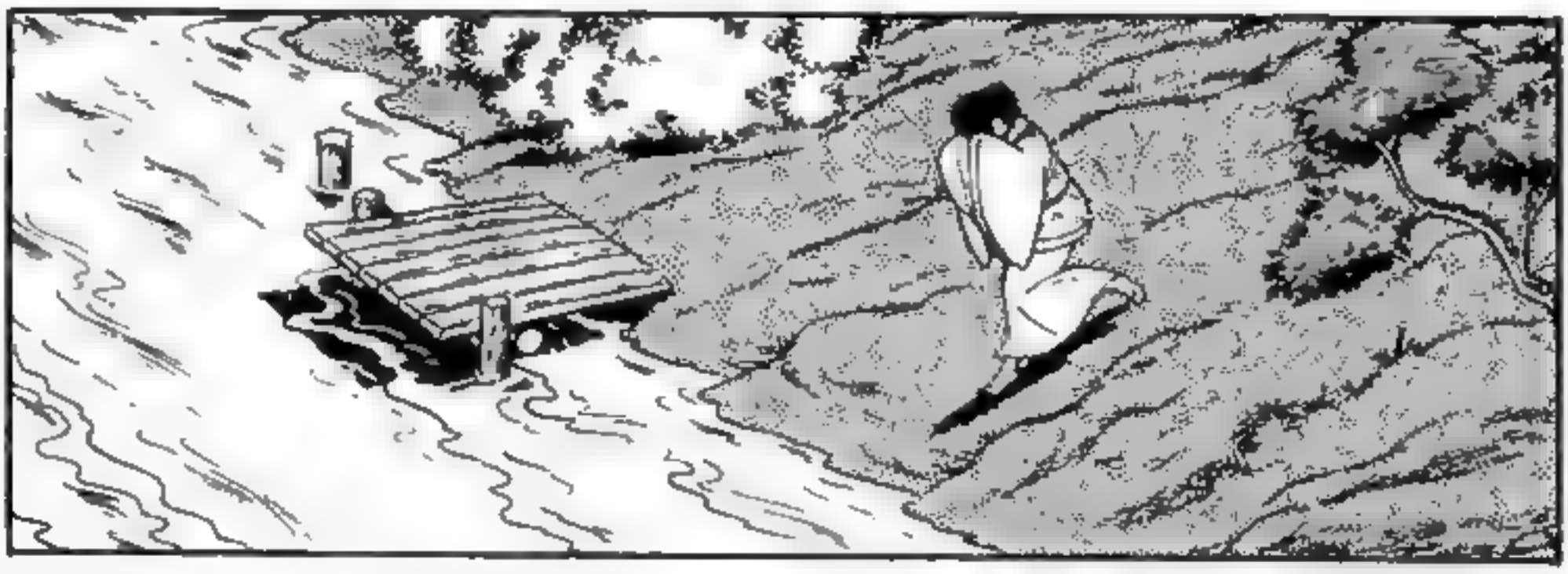
H-HOW COULD THIS BE...!

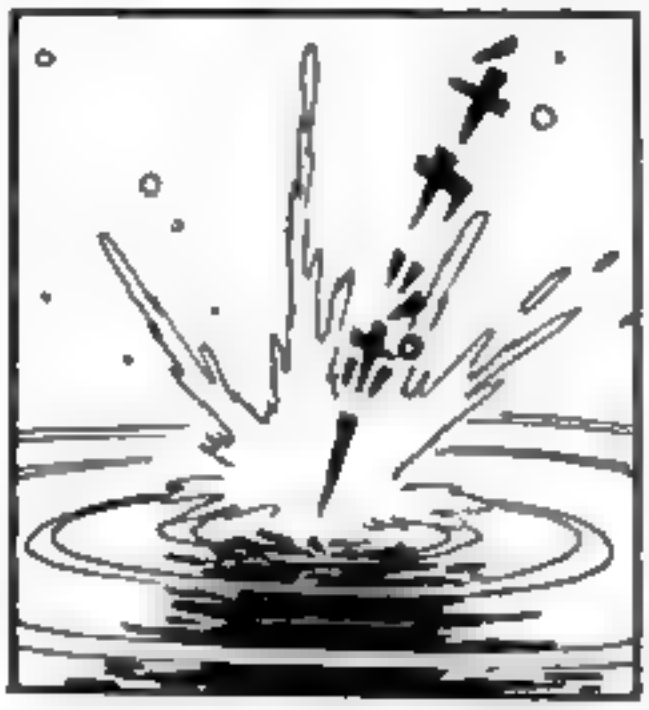
WHAT'S THE MATTER MOTHER?

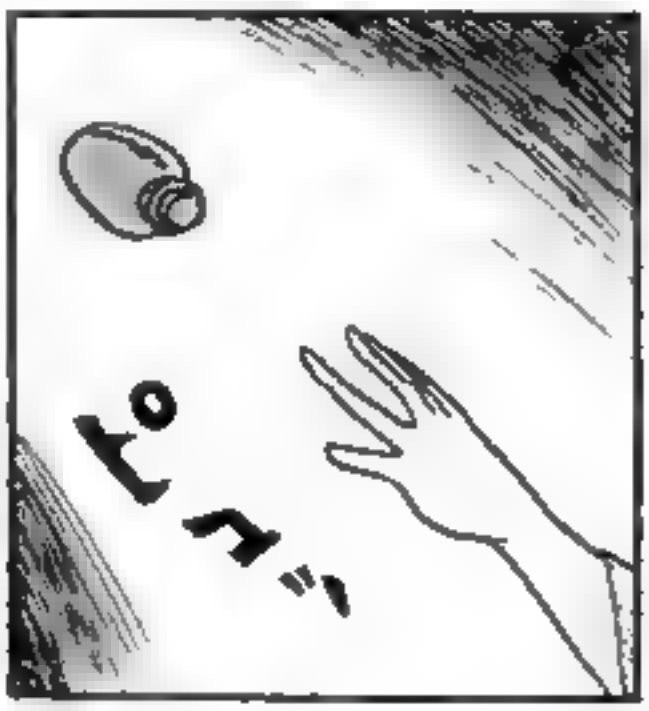
MOTHER!

I...RAISED YOU WRONGLY...

MOTHER, WAIT! PLEASE TELL ME THE REASON!







M-MOTHER! HOW COULD YOU THROW THE TEA OUT INTO THE RIVER!?

AHH!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF YOUR MOTHER WHO THREW AWAY THE TEA YOU WORKED SO HARD TO BUY?

I'VE RAISED YOU WRONGLY.

XUANDE, TAKE A SEAT.

BUT YOU STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY I AM SO ANGRY.

I...I'M SO SORRY.

TO RAISE A SON WHO WOULD HAND OVER OUR FAMILY'S SWORD... HOW CAN I FACE OUR ANCESTORS NOW...?

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IF YOU'VE EVER SUSPECTED IT, BUT OUR FAMILY WERE NOT ORIGINALLY SIMPLE PEASANTS.

THE SWORD IS THE SOUL OF A WARRIOR...BUT YOU HAVE TURNED INTO A POOR PEASANT WASTING HIS YEARS IN THIS TOWN...

IN YOUR VEINS FLOWS THE ROYAL BLOOD OF THE ONE WHO ONCE UNITED AND RULED OVER ALL THE LANDS.

IF YOU GO BACK FAR ENOUGH IN OUR FAMILY TREE, WE ARE ACTUALLY THE DESCENDANTS OF EMPEROR JING OF HAN.

YOUR FATHER AND GRANDFATHER MAY HAVE LIVED POOR LIVES BUT AT LEAST THEIR HEARTS WERE NOT.

WAS THAT SWORD HANDED DOWN OUR FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.

AND THE PROOF OF THIS,

IF WORD GOT OUT THAT A DESCENDANT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WAS LIVING HERE, THEY WOULD SURELY COME TO ASSASSINATE YOU.

THE REASON WHY I HAD NEVER TOLD YOU THIS UNTIL NOW IS THAT THERE ARE MANY WHO AIM FOR THE EMPEROR'S THRONE RIGHT NOW.

BUT TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD GROW UP TO BECOME A SIMPLE PEASANT IN HEART AND MIND... WERE YOU THINKING THAT YOU'D LIVE OUT THE REST OF YOUR DAYS IN THIS VILLAGE MAKING STRAW MATS FOREVER?

EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY BE POOR, YOUR MOTHER AT LEAST WANTED TO RAISE YOU INTO A SON WHO WOULD BE PROUD OF HIS ROYAL HERITAGE...

AND SO OUR FAMILY HAS ALWAYS HIDDEN ITS TRUE IDENTITY AND LIVED A POOR LIFESTYLE.

YOU FOOLISH, FOOLISH SON OF MINE!!

I AM SO ANGRY AND FLUSTERED I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU...

WAS THE TEA MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SWORD TO YOU!?

DID YOU REALLY THINK YOUR MOTHER WOULD BE HAPPY TO DRINK THAT TEA THAT YOU GAVE YOUR SWORD UP FOR!?

FROM NOW ON, I VOW TO LIVE A LIFE THAT WON'T SHAME MY FAMILY'S HERITAGE.

I HAD BECOME A SIMPLE PEASANT WHO ONLY THOUGHT OF HIS AND HIS MOTHER'S HAPPINESS.

MOTHER, I WAS A FOOL.

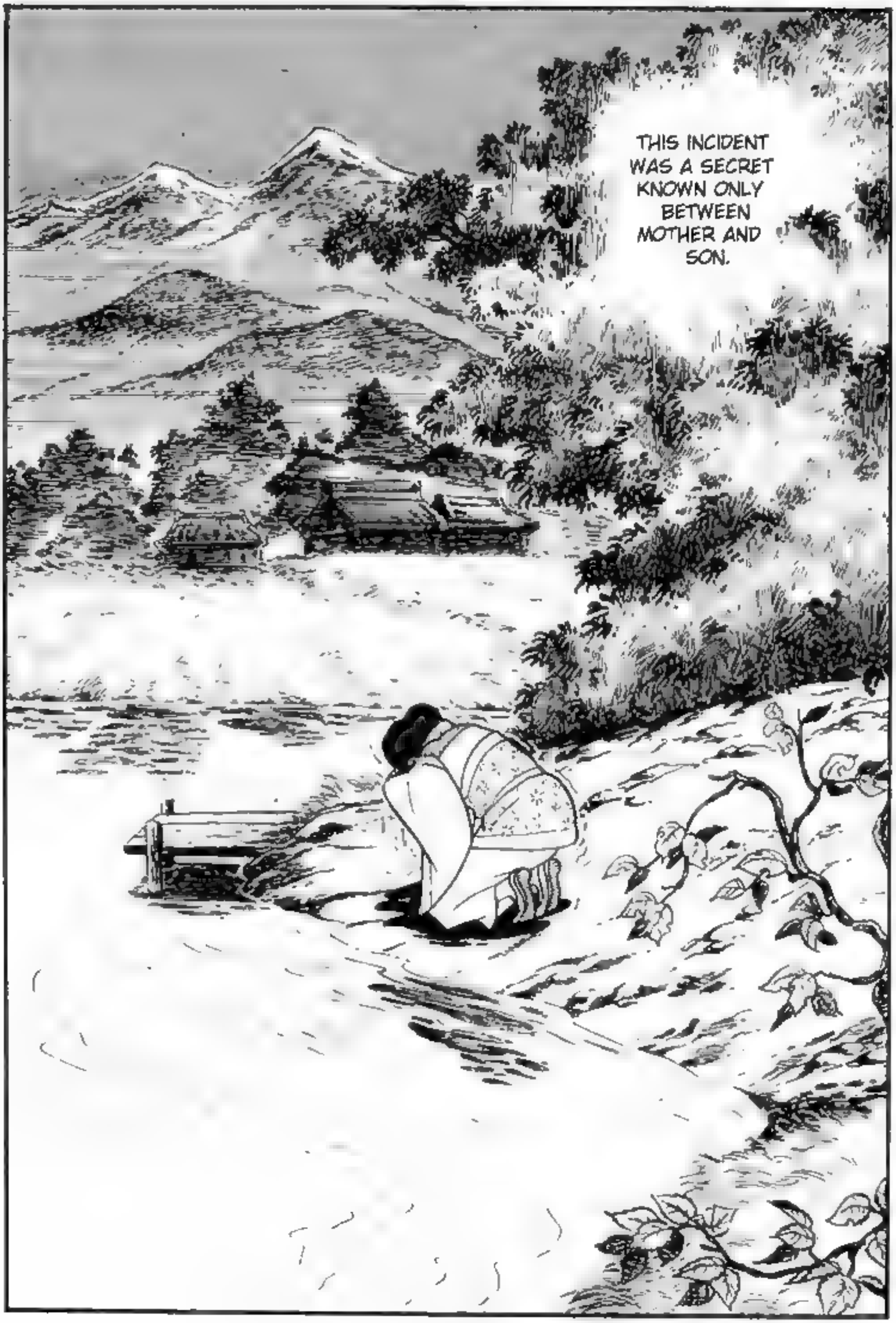
YES.

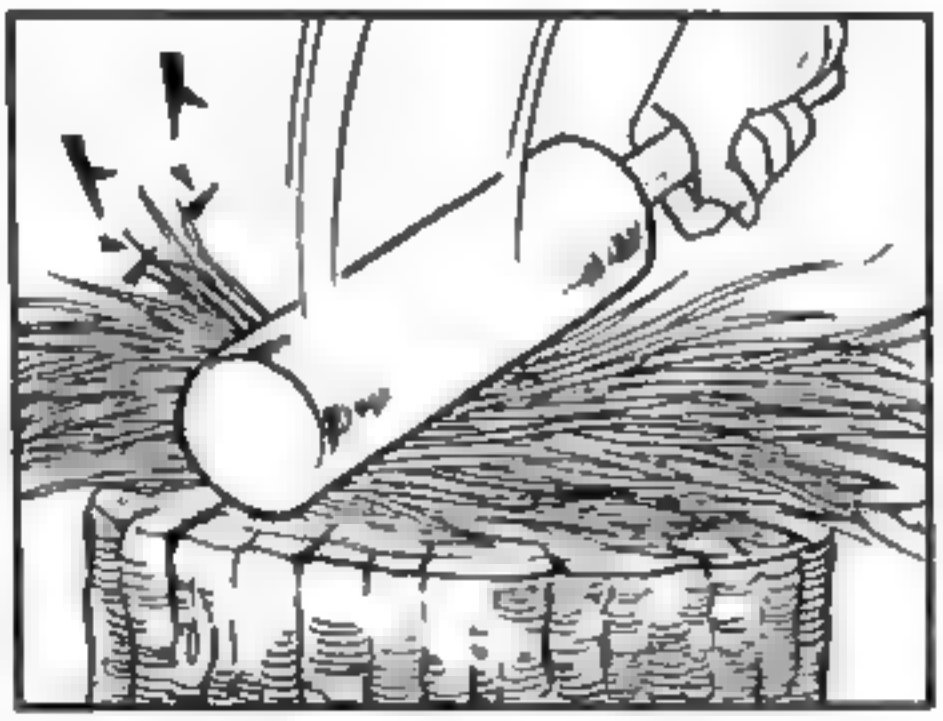
IF YOU UNDERSTAND MY WORDS, GO NOW TO YOUR FATHER'S GRAVE AND SWEAR ON THOSE VERY WORDS...

XUANDE... YOUR MOTHER HAD TO THROW AWAY HER FEELINGS AND SCOLD YOU...

THERE COULD BE NO GREATER HAPPINESS FOR A MOTHER!!

HOW COULD I NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS OF WANTING TO MAKE ME HAPPY AS YOUR OWN MOTHER...?


THIS INCIDENT WAS A SECRET KNOWN ONLY BETWEEN MOTHER AND SON.



AH, SO IT IS.
MOTHER, TODAY IS THE DAY WE SELL OUR GOODS TO THE SHOP.

ONCE I RECEIVE THE MONEY, I'LL GO BUY SOMETHING NICE TO EAT AS WELL.

THEN, I'LL BE OFF TO DELIVER THESE.

YES.

IT'S QUITE A DANGEROUS WORLD OUT THERE THESE DAYS SO PLEASE COME BACK HOME QUICKLY.

THE TOWN SEEMS QUITE LIVELY AS USUAL.

AH, IF IT ISN'T LIU BEI!

I'VE BROUGHT THE STRAW MATS.

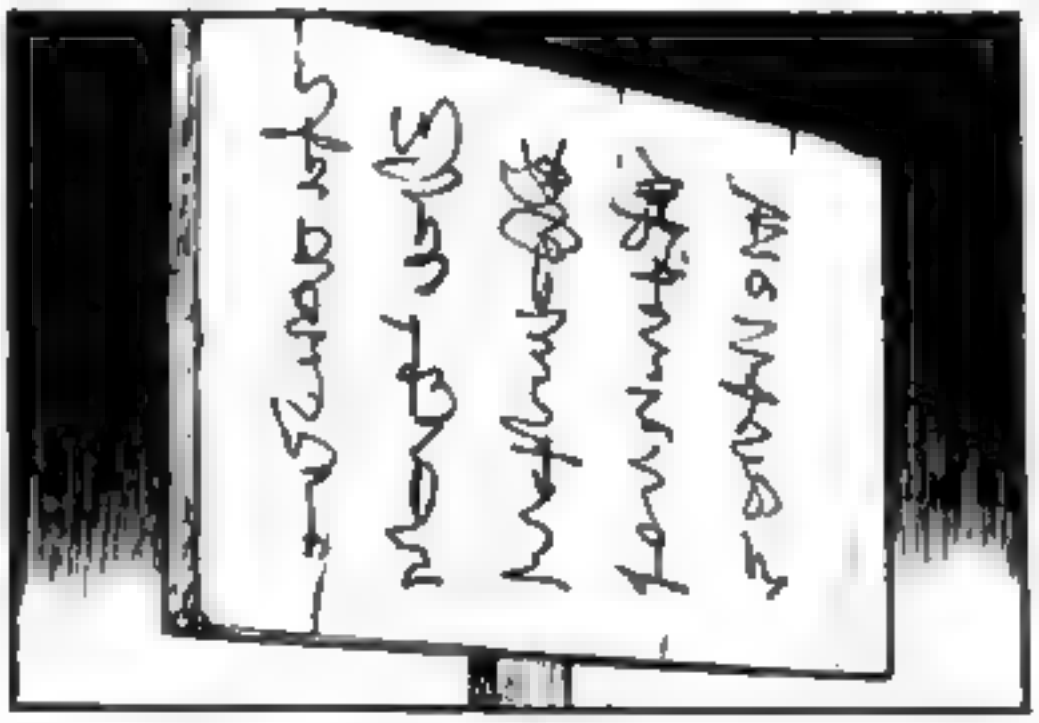
HELLO?

AH, OF COURSE. JUST PUT IT OVER THERE.

NOW, TO BUY SOMETHING FOR MOTHER.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH SIR.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK, HERE'S YOUR PAYMENT.

HMM?



WHAT IS THIS?

COULD YOU PERHAPS TELL ME WHAT'S WRITTEN ON THAT SIGN? I CAN'T READ AT ALL SO... HAHA.

HEY!

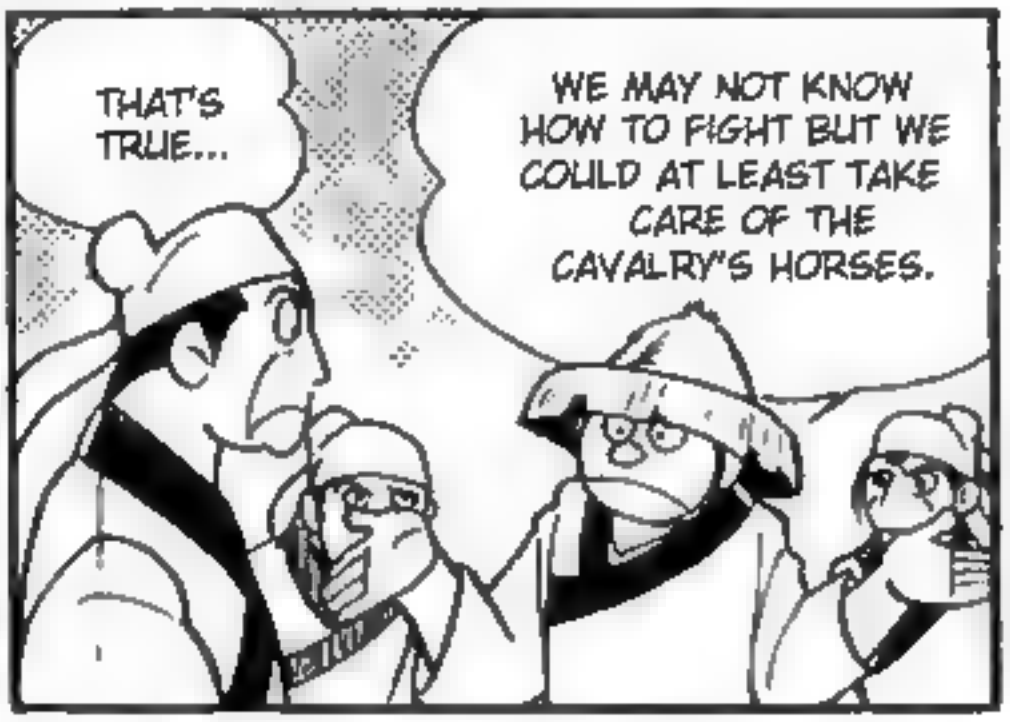
THE TIME TO DRAW MEN OF JUSTICE IS NOW. NO LONGER CAN THE PEOPLE ENDURE THE CRUEL SLAUGHTER AND PILLAGING OF THE YELLOW SCARVES...

RECRU-ITING?
IT'S A NOTICE TO RECRUIT MEN TO FIGHT AGAINST THE REBELS.

THAT'S RIGHT!
WELL OF COURSE WE WANT TO GET RID OF THOSE YELLOW SCARVES BUT JUST WHAT ARE WE SUP-POSED TO DO WHEN WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO HOLD A SPEAR PROPERLY?

I SEE, HAVE THE TIMES ALREADY CHANGED SO MUCH THAT NOW EVEN WE PEASANTS MUST TAKE UP ARMS?

WELL I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU BUT I'M SICK OF THOSE YELLOW SCARVES!

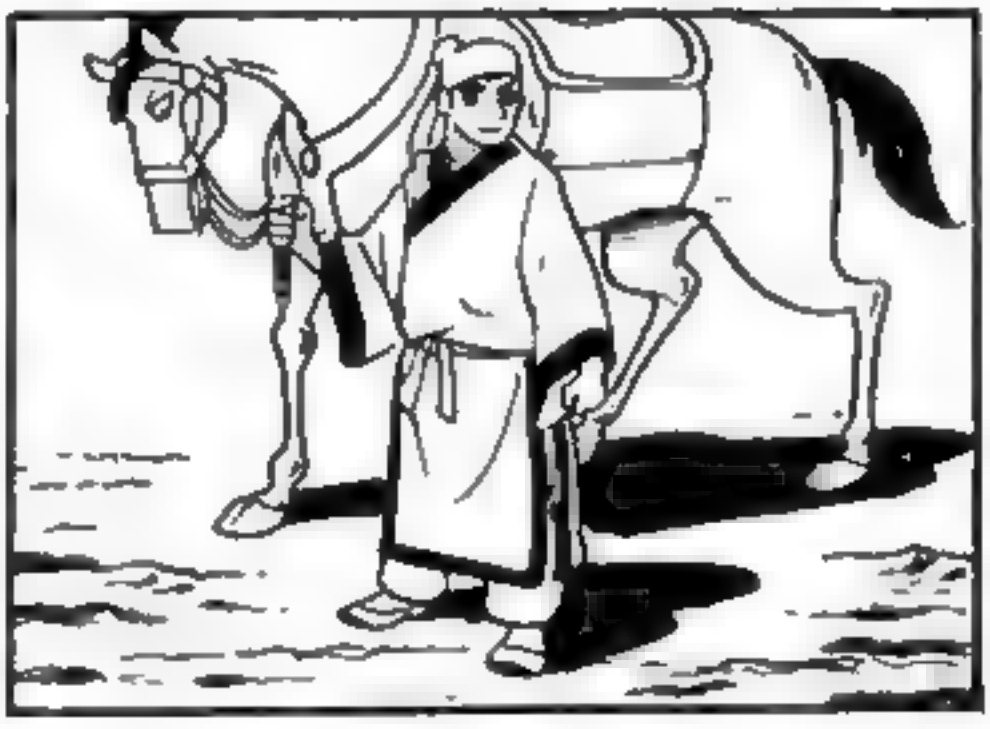

THAT'S TRUE...
WE MAY NOT KNOW HOW TO FIGHT BUT WE COULD AT LEAST TAKE CARE OF THE CAVALRY'S HORSES.

ALRIGHT, THE SOONER THE BETTER THEN!

ALRIGHT, THEN I'LL JOIN TOO!

ME TOO!

JUST WHAT WILL COME OF THIS COUNTRY?



HEY.

TO THINK THAT EVEN THE PEASANTS CAN NOW NO LONGER LEAVE THE MATTER OF FIGHTING TO THE ARMIES ALONE...

HMM?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

MAYBE YOU'LL KNOW ONCE YOU SEE THIS SWORD...

HMM...

AHH!

THIS SWORD THAT I RECEIVED FROM YOU...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR FORGETTING THE FACE OF MY SAVIOUR.

YES.

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU ARE ZHANG FEI YIDE, THE ONE WHO RESCUED ME FROM THE YELLOW SCARF REBELS!!

NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

I SAW YOU STARING AT THIS SIGN FOR A LONG TIME BUT JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

I DIDN'T HAVE THIS BEARD NOR SCAR UPON MY FACE BACK THEN SO IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.

YES, I CANNOT JOIN THE ARMY FOR MY DEAR MOTHER WOULD BE LEFT ALONE.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO SAY AFTER STARING AT THAT SIGN FOR SO LONG!?

NOTHING MUCH...

WHAT?

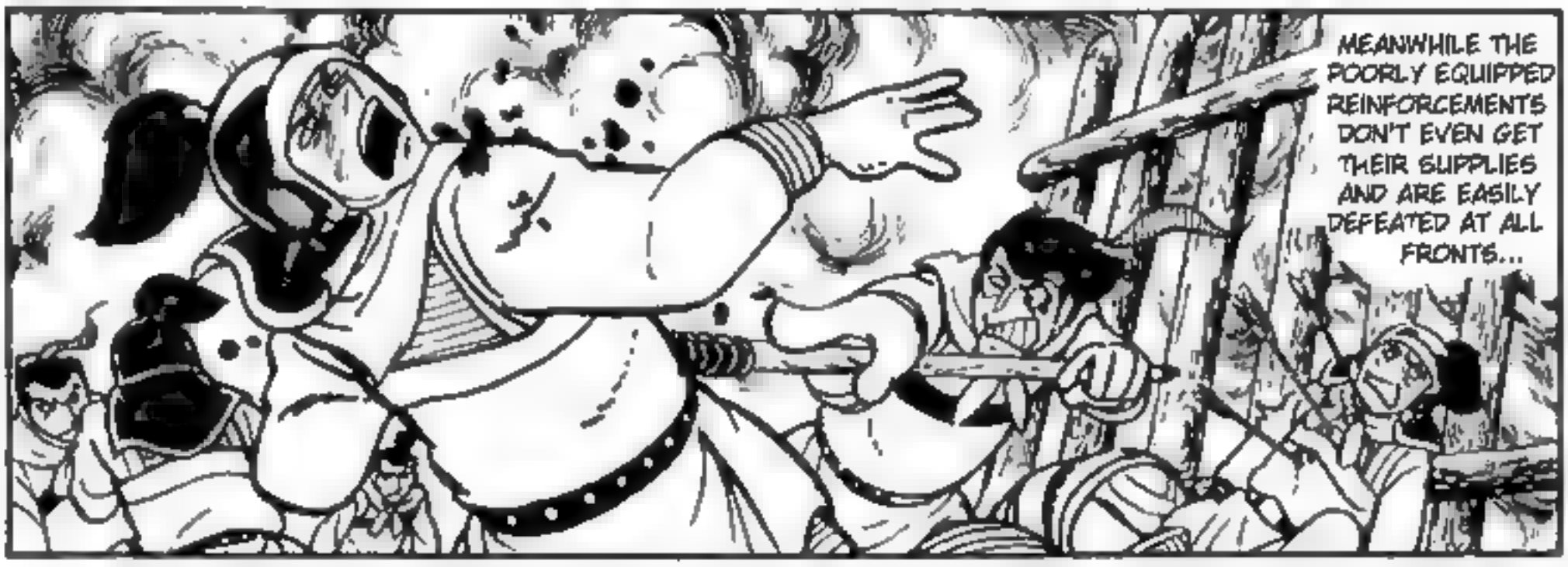
DON'T LIE TO ME!!

I...I AM NOT LYING...

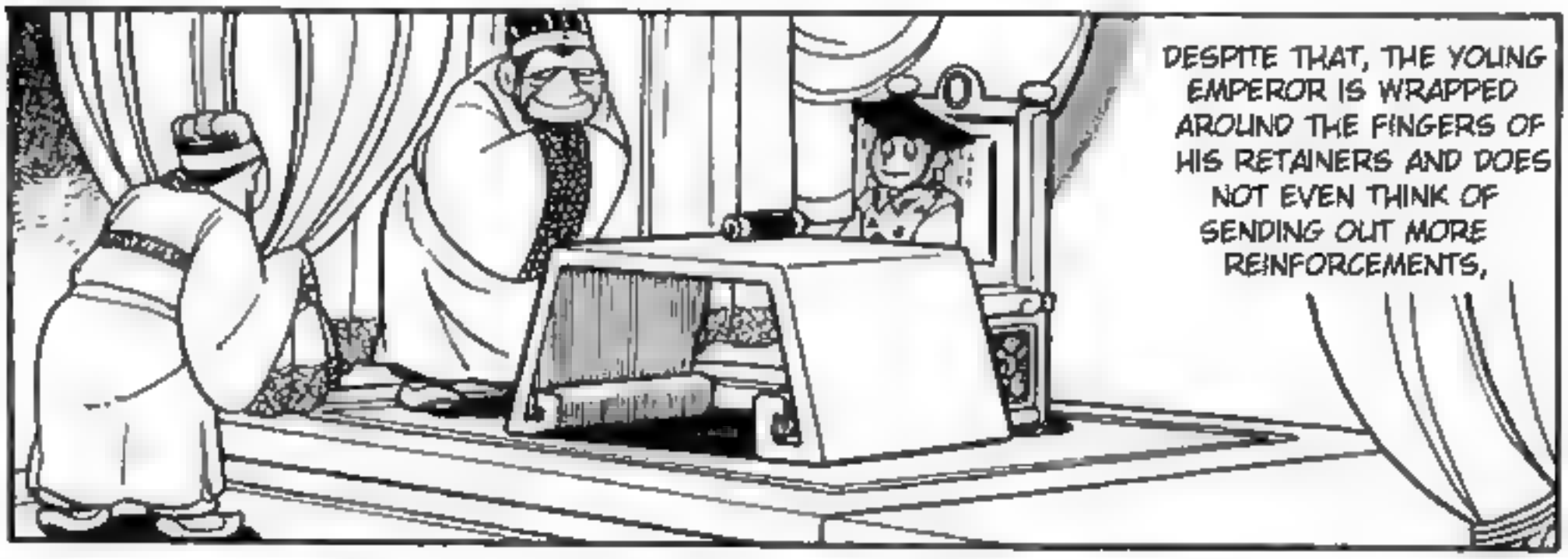
THERE'S NO WAY THAT YOU'D HAVE NOTHING TO SAY AFTER STARING SO FIXATEDLY AT THAT!

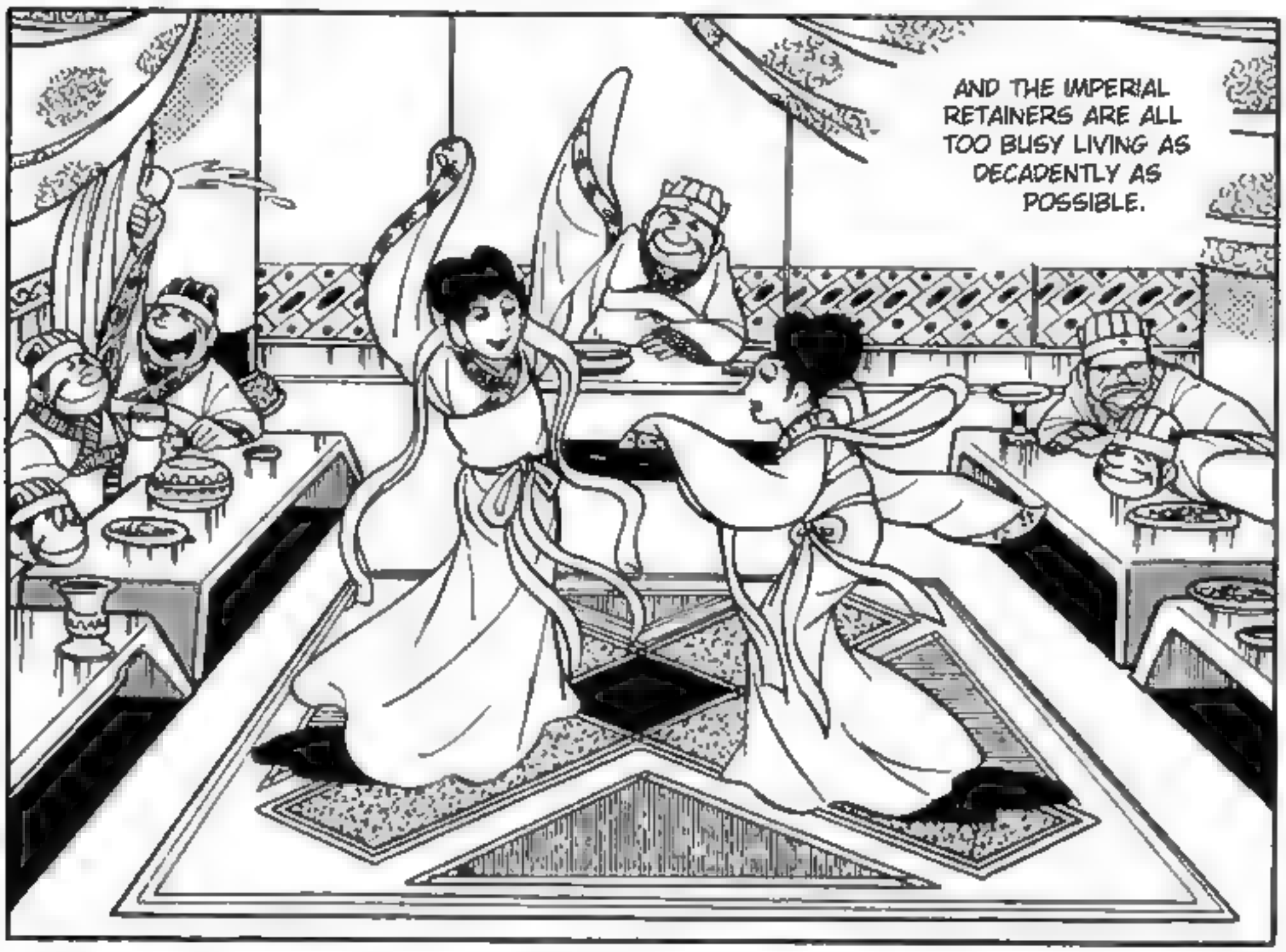
THIS ONE SIGN TELLS THE STATE OF THE WORLD RIGHT NOW!!

THE YELLOW SCARVES BECOME MORE VIOLENT DAY BY DAY...

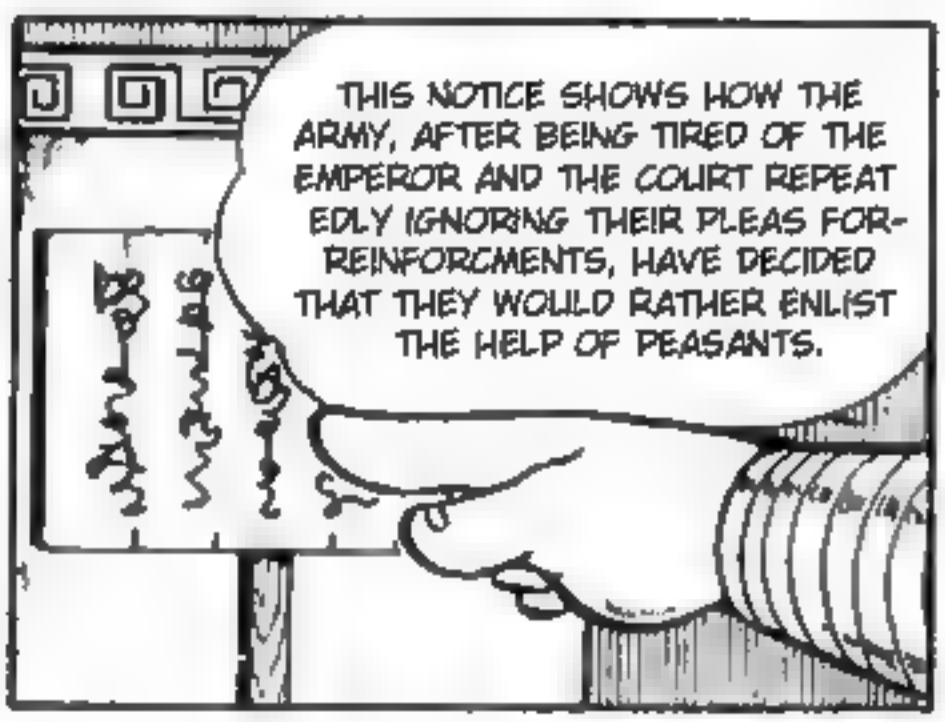

MEANWHILE THE POORLY EQUIPPED REINFORCEMENTS DON'T EVEN GET THEIR SUPPLIES AND ARE EASILY DEFEATED AT ALL FRONTS...

ALL THE CITIES AND TOWNS THAT THE REBELS HAVE PASSED BY ARE NOW NOTHING MORE THAN BURNT DOWN GRAVEYARDS, WITH NOT A SINGLE WOMAN NOR CHILD LEFT ALIVE.


DESPITE THAT, THE YOUNG EMPEROR IS WRAPPED AROUND THE FINGERS OF HIS RETAINERS AND DOES NOT EVEN THINK OF SENDING OUT MORE REINFORCEMENTS,


AND THE IMPERIAL RETAINERS ARE ALL TOO BUSY LIVING AS DECADENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

ARE YOU STILL SAYING THAT YOU THINK OF NOTHING WHEN LOOKING AT THE SORDID STATE OF THE WORLD?


THIS NOTICE SHOWS HOW THE ARMY, AFTER BEING TIRED OF THE EMPEROR AND THE COURT REPEAT EDLY IGNORING THEIR PLEAS FOR- REINFORCMENTS, HAVE DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD RATHER ENLIST THE HELP OF PEASANTS.

THE REASON WHY I ASK YOU...

THIS SWORD AS WELL.

IS THAT NO MATTER HOW I LOOK, YOU LOOK LIKE NO MERE PEASANT.

IT IS NOT A SWORD A MAN LIKE ME SHOULD CARRY.

I'VE CUT DOWN MANY ENEMIES WITH THIS SWORD ALREADY.

IT WAS CRYING, "JUST HOW LONG MUST I STAY SHEATHED AND BE OF NO USE TO THIS WORLD..."

AND WHEN I SWUNG THIS SWORD, I HEARD ITS CRY.

THE SWINGING OF THE SWORD AS IT CUT THE WIND MADE AN EERIE NOISE AS IF SOMEONE WAS ACTUALLY CRYING...

LISTEN! DO YOU NOT HEAR THE SWORD'S CRY!?

DO YOU STILL NOT FEEL ANYTHING?

BUT OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS, SOMEONE MAY OVERHEAR US. LET US GO SOMEPLACE ELSE FIRST.

YES, OF COURSE!

ALRIGHT, I SHALL TELL YOU HOW I TRULY FEEL.

I ALSO THOUGHT IT MAY BE TIME FOR ME TO RISK MY LIFE FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE AND THIS COUNTRY.

I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE FROM YOU ANYMORE. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I AM A DESCENDANT OF THE EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HOW COULD I NOT FEEL UNEASY AND CONFLICTED OVER THE STATE OF THE WORLD RIGHT NOW?

I NOW SEE WHAT THAT OLD PRIEST FROM MILADY'S STORY MEANT BY THOSE WORDS...

I KNEW YOU WERE NO ORDINARY MAN BUT TO THINK YOU WERE A DESCENDANT OF AN EMPEROR... PLEASE FORGIVE MY BOLDNESS...

BUT...

I AM NOT WORTHY OF THIS SWORD. IT IS A SWORD THAT ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THIS NATION SHOULD CARRY.

PLEASE, TAKE BACK THIS SWORD.

I WILL. AND HERE IS YOUR SWORD BACK AS WELL.

AS LONG AS YOU CARRY THIS SWORD, PLEASE LIVE A LIFE APPROPRIATE TO IT...

MY MOTHER IS WAITING FOR ME, SO PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR TODAY.

BUT PLEASE COME TO MY HOUSE IN LIUSANG VILLAGE AND LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES.

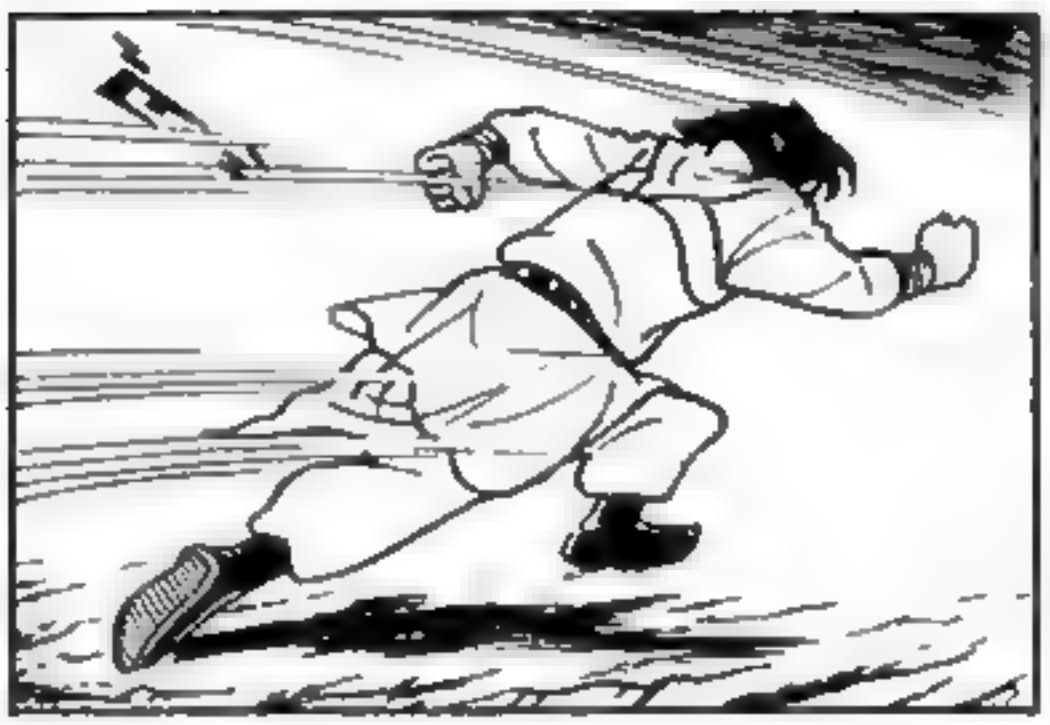
I SHALL.

IS THE SUN ALREADY SETTING?

WHAT AN ADMIRABLE MAN.

THEN, GOODBYE FOR NOW.

IT SEEMS AS IF SURVIVING UNTIL NOW WAS WELL WORTH IT. I'VE FINALLY FOUND A MAN WORTH SERVING UNDER.



AH, I MUST TELL THIS TO YUNCHANG.

HEY!

I KNOW THAT BUT THE SUN HASN'T COMPLETELY SET YET. I HAVE URGENT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO SO PLEASE OPEN THE DOORS!

ARE YOU AN IDIOT? OF COURSE WE CAN'T DO THAT.

HEY GUARDS! OPEN THE CITY GATES FOR ME!!

NGRR.

SORRY BUT WE REFUSE. JUST STAY THE NIGHT AT SOME PLACE NEARBY AND COME BACK IN THE MORNING.

SHUT UP, I HAVE A PLACE I NEED TO GET TO NO MATTER WHAT!

AH! ARE YOU TRYING TO BREAK THE LAWS!?

AGHHH!

I'M A MAN FAMOUS FOR HIS SHORT TEMPER. IF YOU WON'T OPEN THE DOORS, I'LL HAVE TO CLIMB UP THE WALLS MYSELF.

Y-YOU...!

JUST GET OUT OF MY WAY AND I WON'T HURT ANYONE, ALRIGHT?

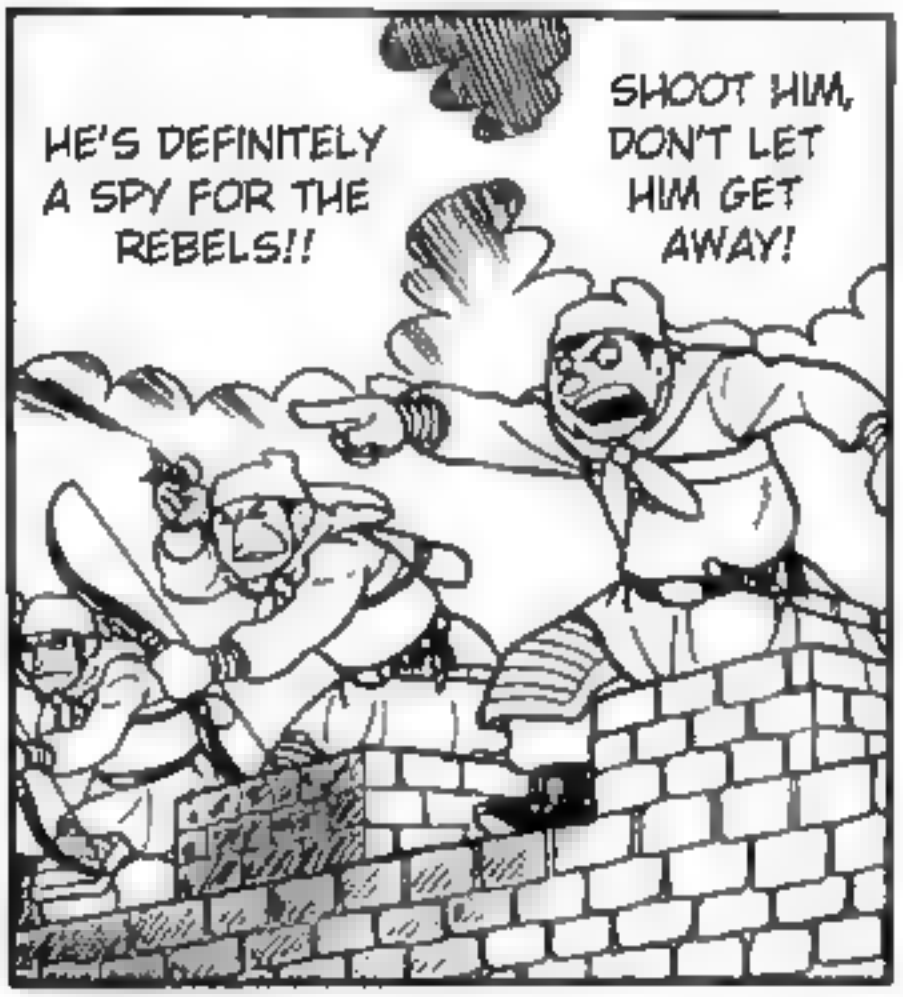
SOMONE HAS BREACHED THE WALLS!
EMER-GENCY!
HE'S A VIOLENT ONE!!

DAMN IDIOTS REFUSING TO LISTEN!!

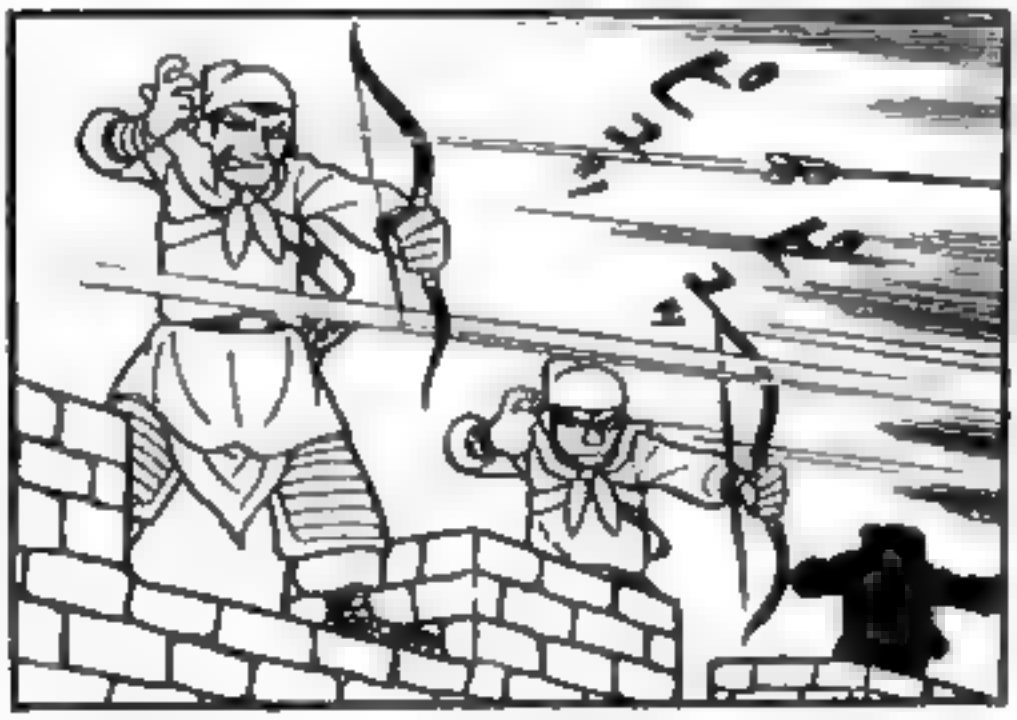
SILENCE! CAPTURE HIM!!

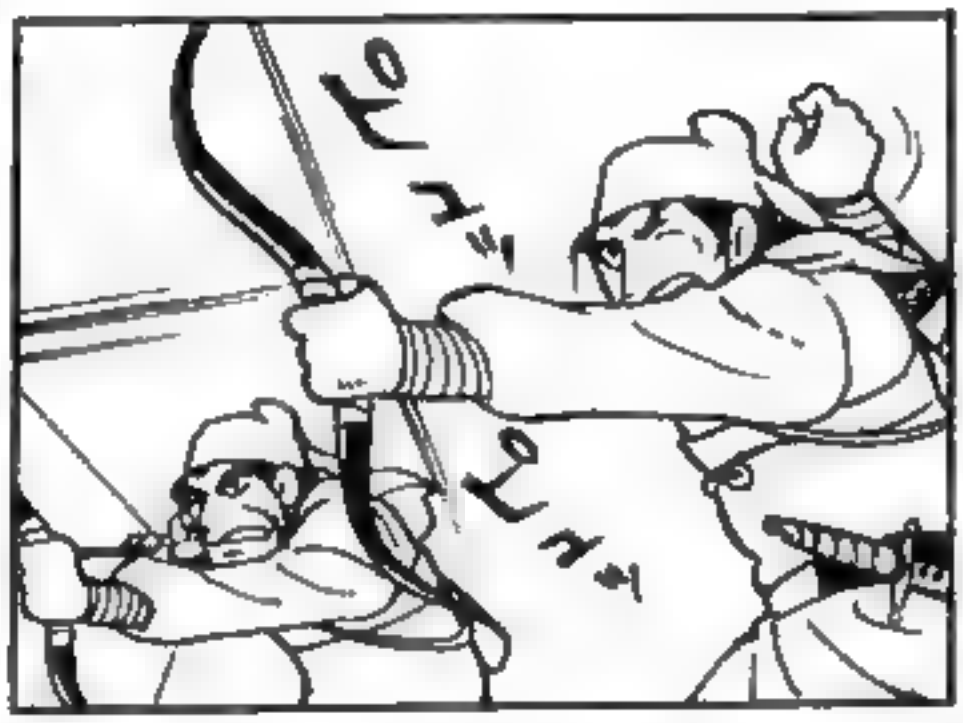
GET OUT OF MY WAY!!

SEE YA.

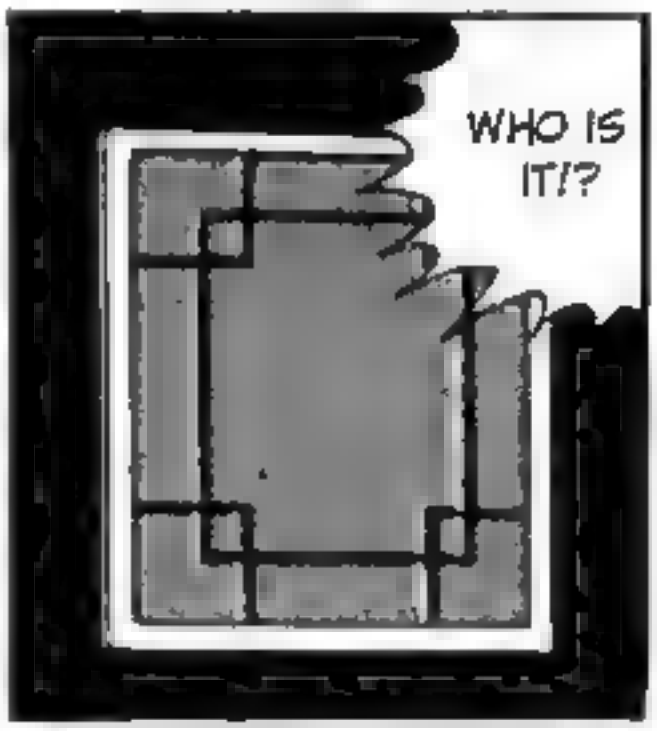

HE'S DEFINITELY A SPY FOR THE REBELS!!
SHOOT HIM, DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

AHH!





HAHA, CUT OUT THIS USELESS CRAP.


WHO IS IT!?

HEY, YUNCHANG! ARE YOU ASLEEP ALREADY!?

IT'S ME, ZHANG FEI.

WHAT IS IT, COMING AT THIS HOUR...?

IS THAT SO? SO YOU REALLY DID NOT JUST COME OVER HERE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DRINK?

AH WELL, THERE WAS SOMETHING I URGENTLY WANTED TO TELL YOU.

SO, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME?

HAHAHA

AH WELL... THAT'S NOT WHAT I CAME TO DO BUT HAVING A LITTLE BIT OF ALCOHOL WOULDN'T BE BAD EITHER, HAHA...

IT SEEMS AS IF OUR DREAMS MAY HAVE CAME TO FRUITION AT LAST.

ﾊﾃ？

I COINCIDENTALLY MET HIM AGAIN TODAY AND IT TURNS OUT THAT HE'S ACTUALLY THE DESCENDANT OF EMPEROR JING OF HAN.

IT'S ABOUT THE MAN NAMED LIU BEI OF LIUSANG VILLAGE I ONCE TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE.

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

JUST THINK ABOUT IT. IF WE LEAVE NOW FOR LIUSANG VILLAGE, IT'LL BE IN THE MIDDLE OF NIGHT WHEN WE ARRIVE. WOULDN'T THAT BE A LITTLE RUDE FOR OUR FIRST VISIT?

HA HA HA, YOU'RE AS SAME AS USUAL.

WELL, ISN'T THAT AN INCREDIBLE STORY? BROTHER, WE SHOULD GO VISIT HIM SOON IN LIUSANG VILLAGE IMMEDIATELY.

THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD CLAIM THAT THEY'RE PART OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY BUT YOU CAN'T GO AROUND BELIEVING ALL OF THEM.

ALSO...?

AND ALSO...

WELL, YOU TEND TO BELIEVE IN THINGS A LITTLE TOO EASILY...

SO ARE YOU SAYING IT WAS ALL A LIE?

WELL, JUST SLEEP QUIETLY HERE FOR TONIGHT. WE'LL THINK ABOUT THIS MORE LATER.

WE HAVE SWORN AN OATH TO BE BROTHERS, HAVE WE NOT? IT IS MY DUTY AS THE OLDER BROTHER TO WARN YOU OF YOUR FLAWS.

I THOUGHT BROTHER YUNCHANG WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR THIS AS WELL WHICH IS WHY I HURRIED OVER HERE...

PSH, I DIDN'T COME HERE TO BE LECTURED BY YOU.

THAT LIU BEI IS NO FAKE, HE'S THE REAL THING.

HMPF, WHAT A LET-DOWN THIS TALK WAS! I'LL HAVE TO GO AND HAVE A DRINK TO CALM DOWN.

GIVE ME SOME LIQUOR OVER HERE.

酒店

YES, YES.

HERE YOU GO, SIR.

AHH.

HE'S HERE!

AH!
HUH?

TIE HIM UP MEN!
WE WON'T LET A SPY LIKE YOU ESCAPE THIS TIME!
JUST WHAT IS YOUR AIM, YOU REBEL!!

OF COURSE, WHO ELSE!?

ARE YOU CALLING ME A MEMBER OF THE YELLOW SCARVES?

ACK!

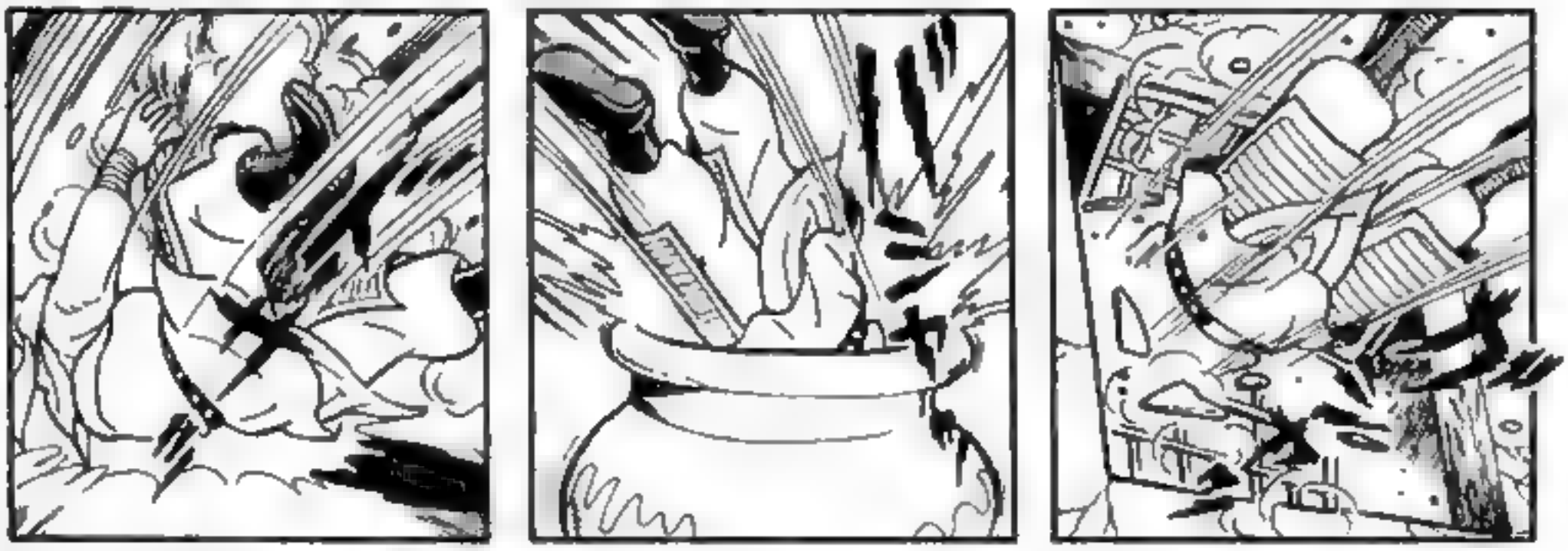
WHAT DID YOU SAY!

YOU DARE ACCUSE ME OF BEING ONE OF THEM?

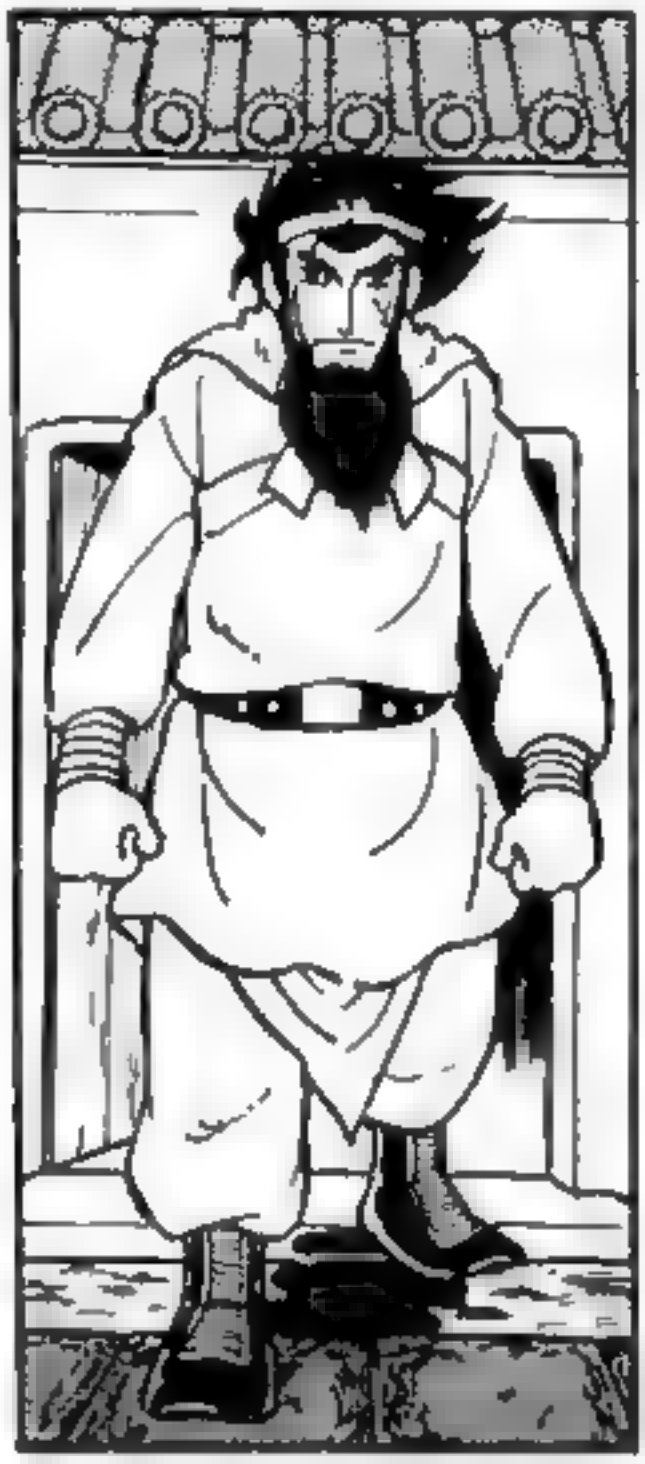
ALRIGHT, MEN! SURROUND HIM!

SHUT UP! WHO ELSE BUT A YELLOW SCARF WOULD CLIMB THE WALLS?

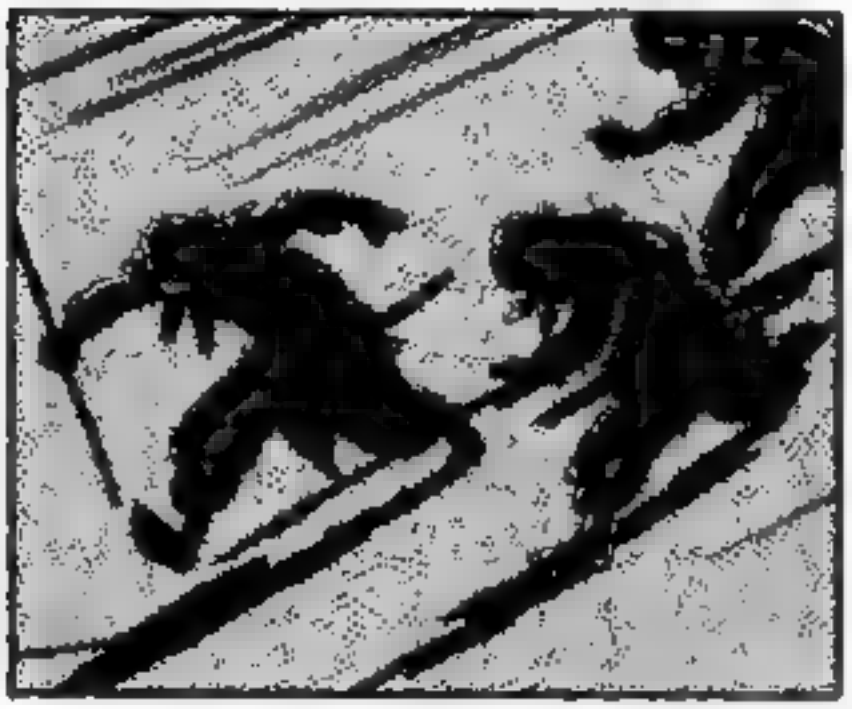
YOU LITTLE
IGNORANT
SHITHEADS!



WHETHER I'M A REBEL OR NOT, LAY EVEN ONE FINGER ON ME AND I WON'T LET YOU GO EASILY.
YOU'RE RESIST-ING US?

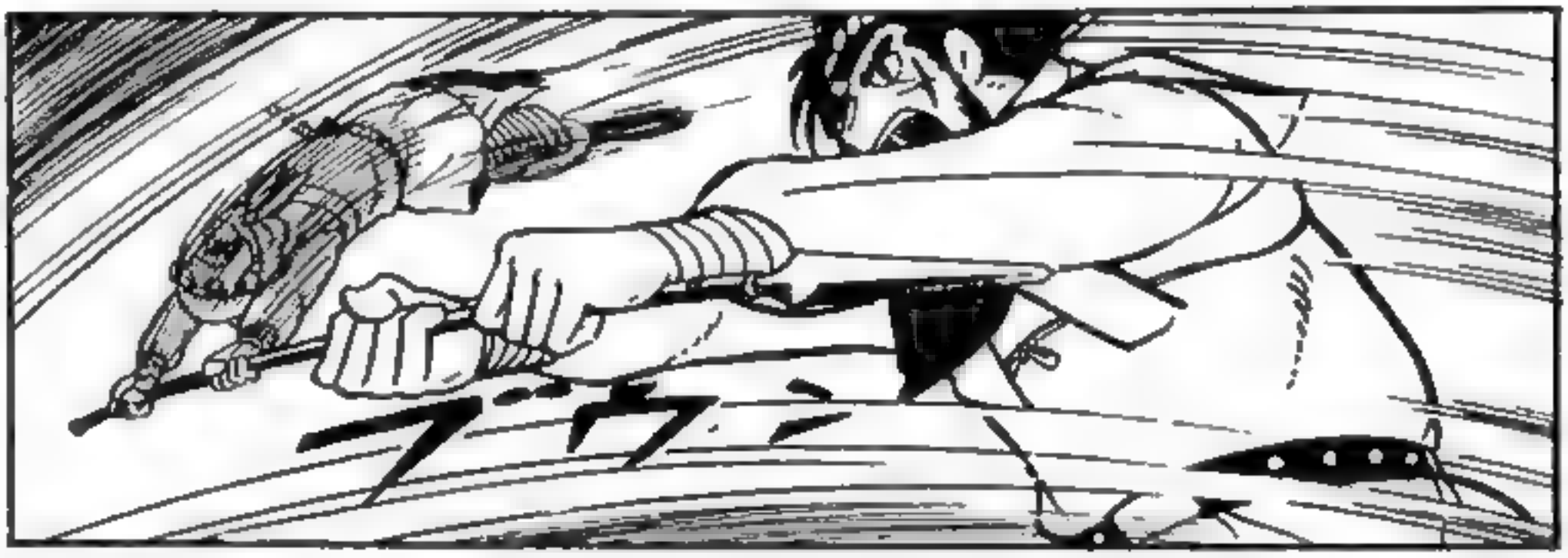


HERE'S YOUR MONEY.

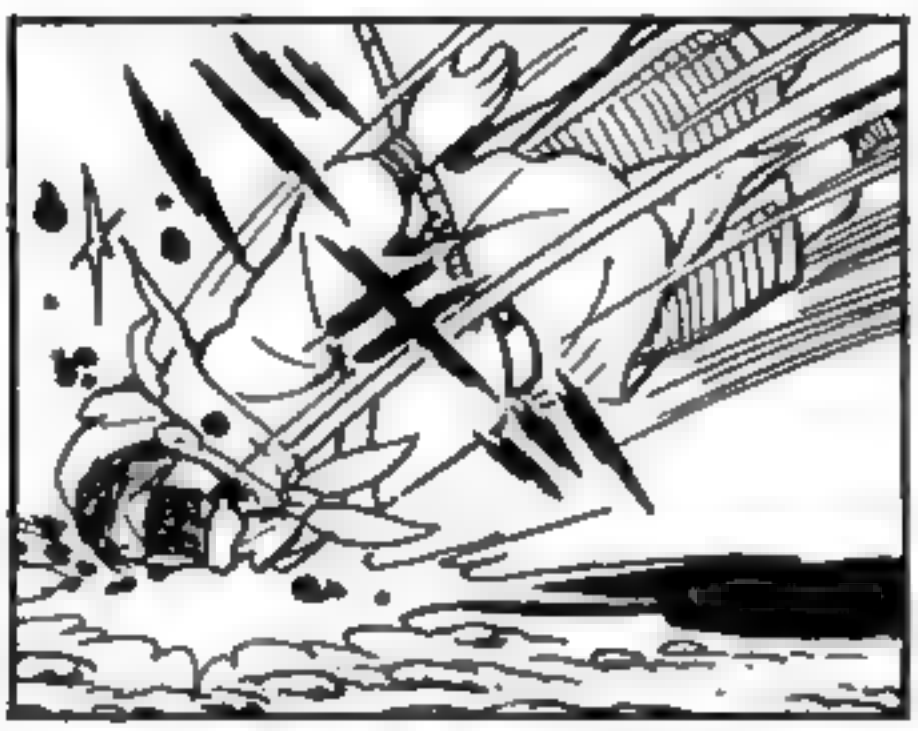


YOU IDIOTS, GO AFTER HIM!!

SURR-ENDER NOW!
YOU BRUTE!
BASTARDS, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DIE SO MUCH!?

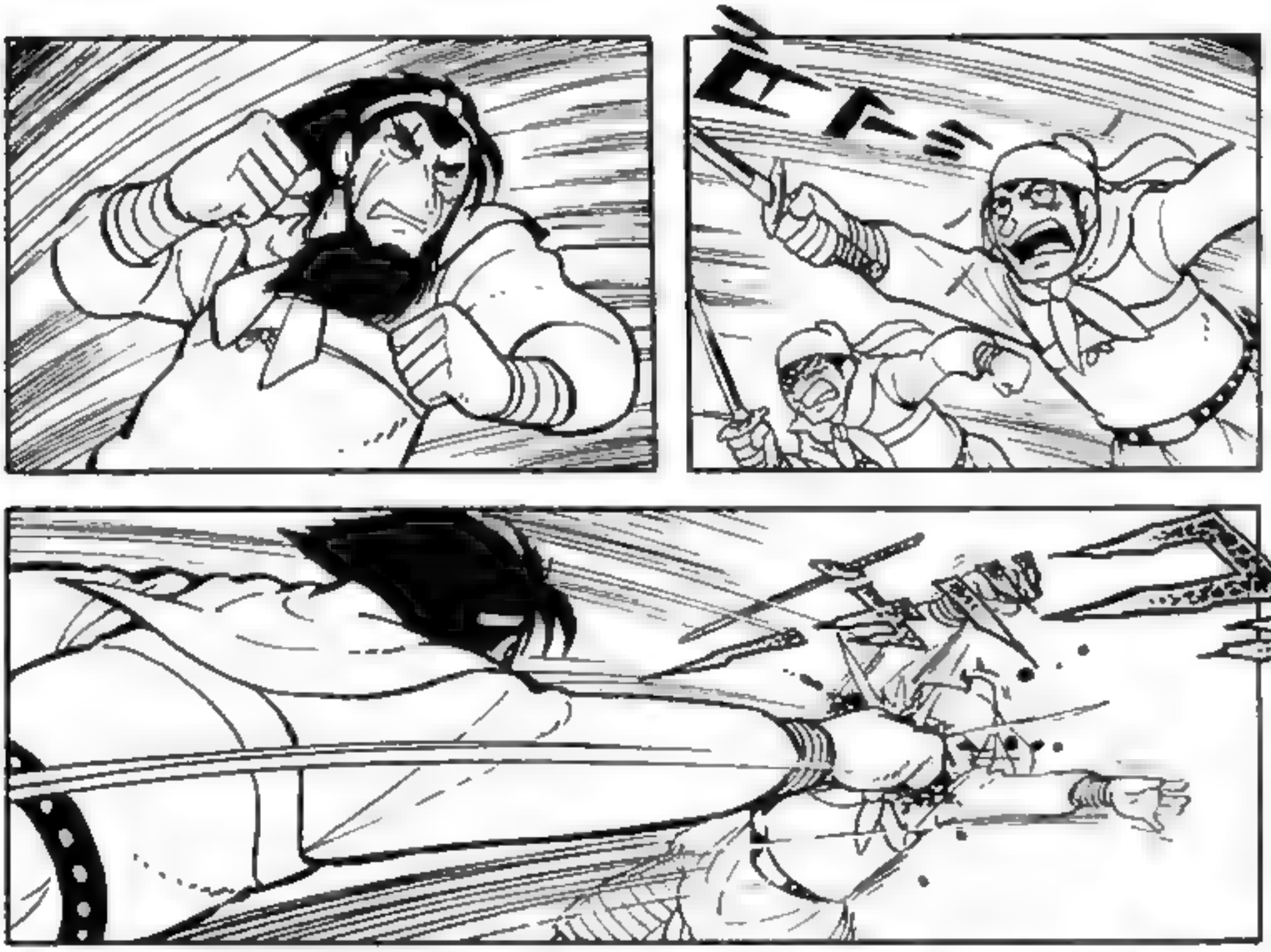


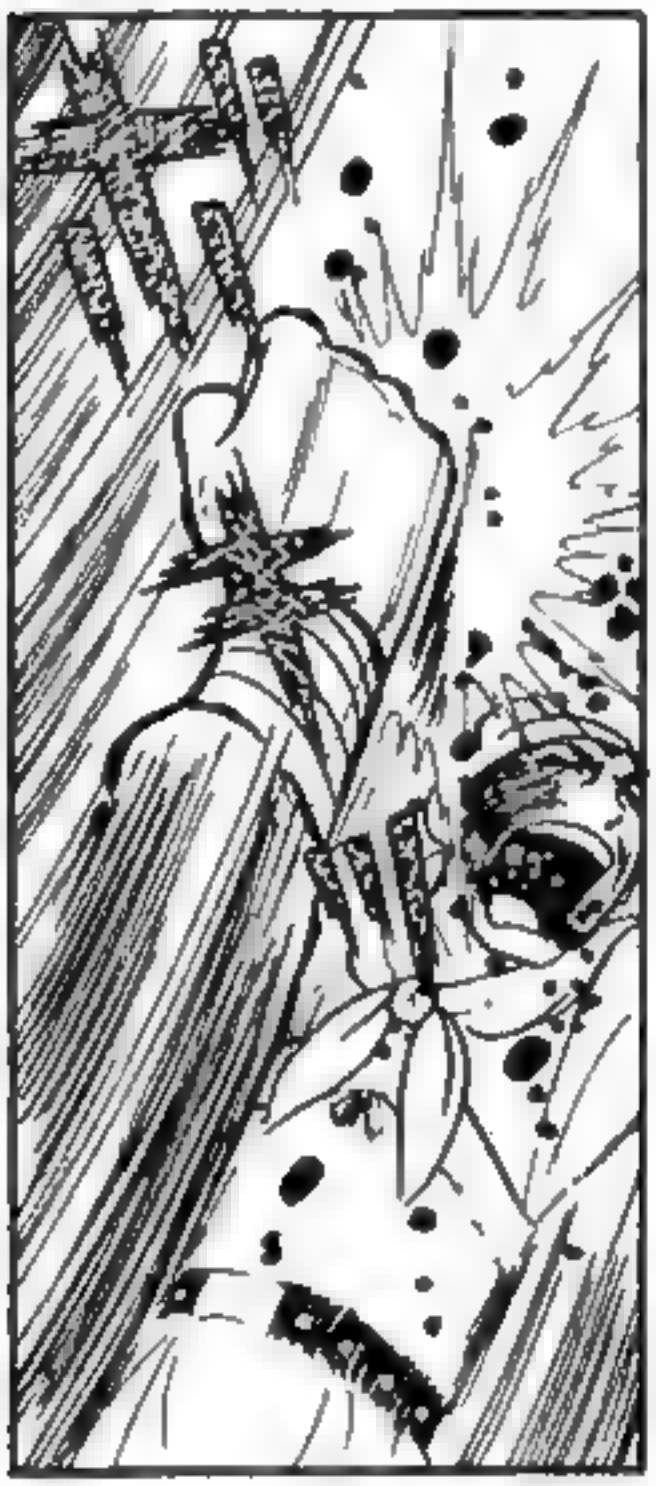
AHHHH!

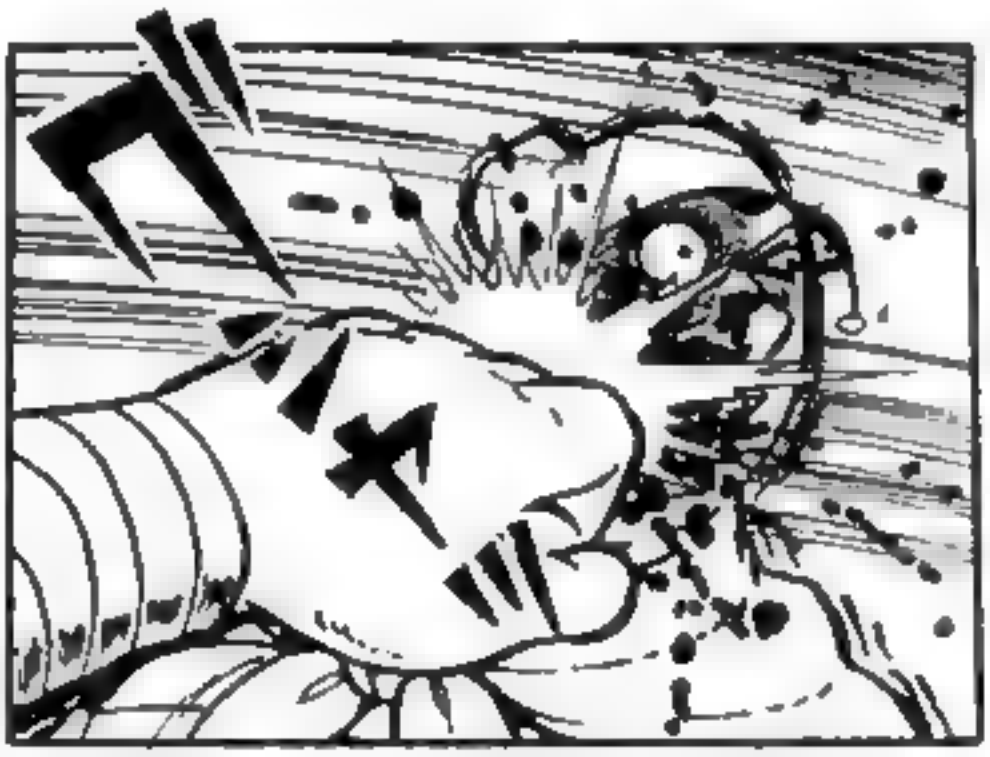


YOU DENSE BLOCK-HEADS. IF TALKING WON'T GET THROUGH TO YOUR HEADS, THAN MY FISTS WILL JUST HAVE TO DO INSTEAD.

KILL HIM IF YOU MUST!







AGHH!

RETREAT,
RETREAT!

P-PLEASE SPARE MY LIFE...

WORRY NOT, I WON'T HARM YOU.

BARKEEP.

GUN

Y-YES.

PLEASE SEND THIS MESSAGE OVER TO YUNCHANG.

TELL HIM THAT EVEN IF HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN LIU BEI, I STILL WILL AND SO I'LL *GO* TO SERVE UNDER HIM...

T-THEN I'LL BE OFF TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY.

YES.

IS THAT ALL?

BECOME THE SAVIOUR OF THE PEOPLE AND THE WORLD AS THE PRIEST SAID BEFORE THROWING HIMSELF OFF THE TOWER.

LIU BEI, FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH, I, ZHANG FEI, SWEAR TO GIVE MY LIFE TO YOU AND SERVE UNDER YOU NO MATTER WHAT, SO PLEASE STEP UP EVEN JUST A MOMENT SOONER TO BRING JUSTICE TO THIS WICKED WORLD.

AND THUS APPEARED A BRAVE WARRIOR WHO WAS READY TO THROW AWAY HIS LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF LIU BEI XUANDE.

THE BEGGAR CORPS

AH, IF IT ISN'T ZHANG FEI.

LET ME TAKE CARE OF THIS FOR YOU.

AH!

SO I JUST NEED TO STACK THEM HERE, RIGHT?

I HAVE DECIDED TO SERVE UNDER YOU FROM NOW ON.

WHY ARE YOU...

I'M AS STRONG AS A HUNDRED MEN, SO I'M SURE I'LL BE AS USEFUL AS AT LEAST HIRING 10 SERVANTS.

BUT IT ALL SEEMS A LITTLE TOO SUDDEN...

UNTIL THE DAY YOU TAKE ACTION AND STAND UP IN THIS WORLD, I SHALL LIVE BY YOUR SIDE AND SERVE YOU.

HMM?

WHAT...?

I HAPPENED TO PUNISH A FEW OF THE GUARDS LAST NIGHT.

I'LL BET THEY'RE HERE TO ARREST ME.

I WONDER WHY THE GUARDS ARE HEADING THIS WAY?

SURRENDER QUIETLY!

DON'T YOU DARE MOVE!

HAHAHA... YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN ARREST ME, ZHANG FEI?

ALRIGHT, THEN GO AHEAD AND TRY!

ZHANG FEI, PLEASE WAIT. IF YOU KILL THE GUARDS, I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE HERE ANYMORE.

ビニ

WAIT! WAIT!

HMM, THAT WOULD BE BAD INDEED.

BRO-
THER!

PLEASE WAIT!
LEAVE THAT
MAN TO ME!

THAT WOULD BE ME.

ARE YOU ANOTHER YELLOW SCARF FRIEND OF HIS!?

YOU SEEM TO BE THE GUARDS FROM THE GATES, JUST WHO IS YOUR CAPTAIN?

NO, NOT AT ALL. MY NAME IS GUAN YU, I RUN A SCHOOL OF LEARNING AROUND BANTOU*. THOSE CLOSE TO ME ALSO CALL ME BY THE NAME, YUNCHANG.

QUIET! HE CLIMBED THE CITY WALLS AND EVEN KILLED A FEW OF OUR GUARDS AND YET YOU'RE SAYING HE ISN'T A REBEL!?

AND THIS MAN OVER HERE CALLED ZHANG FEI IS IN NO WAY A MEMBER OF THE YELLOW SCARVES.

THAT WAS RATHER FOOLISH OF YOU.

I SEE, SO YOU REALLY ATTEMPTED TO ARREST HIM WITH ONLY 4-5 SUBORDINATES OF YOURS?

GUH!

THIS MAN IS ZHANG FEI YIDE, THE MAN WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY CUT DOWN OVER 808 OF THE YELLOW SCARF REBELS WHILE SERVING THE KOU FAMILY OF YOUZHOU WHICH EARNED HIM THE NICKNAME: THE 808 CORPSE GENERAL.

SO HOW ABOUT YOU JUST LEAVE HIM TO ME?

IF YOU WANT TO ARREST THIS MAN, YOU'LL NEED A THOUSAND MEN.

BUT...

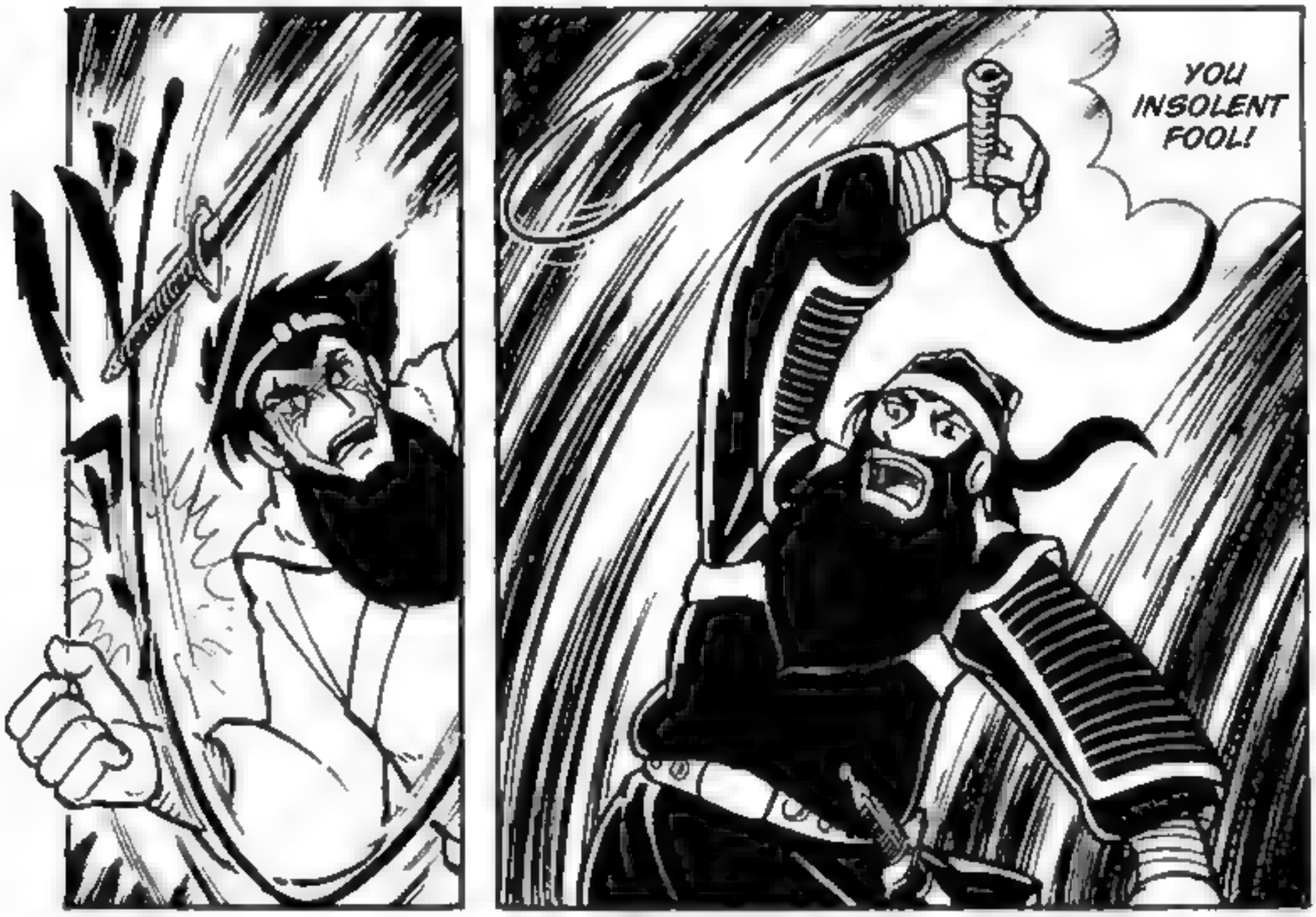
I HAVE SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH ZHANG FEI HERE. IT IS MY DUTY AND WISH TO ARREST AND PUNISH HIM FOR HIS CRIMES WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS. I SHALL TAKE HIM TO THE GOVERNOR OF THIS PREFECTURE.

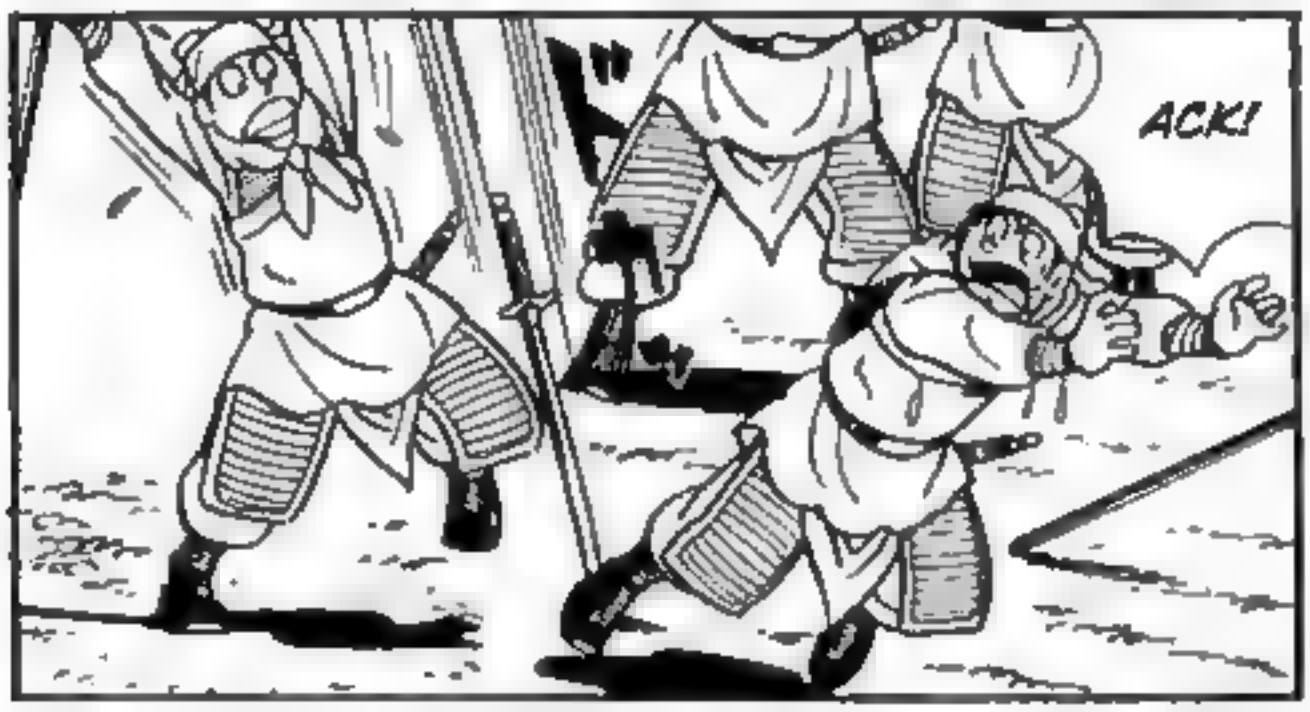
HAHA, SURELY YOU'RE NOT DOUBTING ME NOW, ARE YOU?

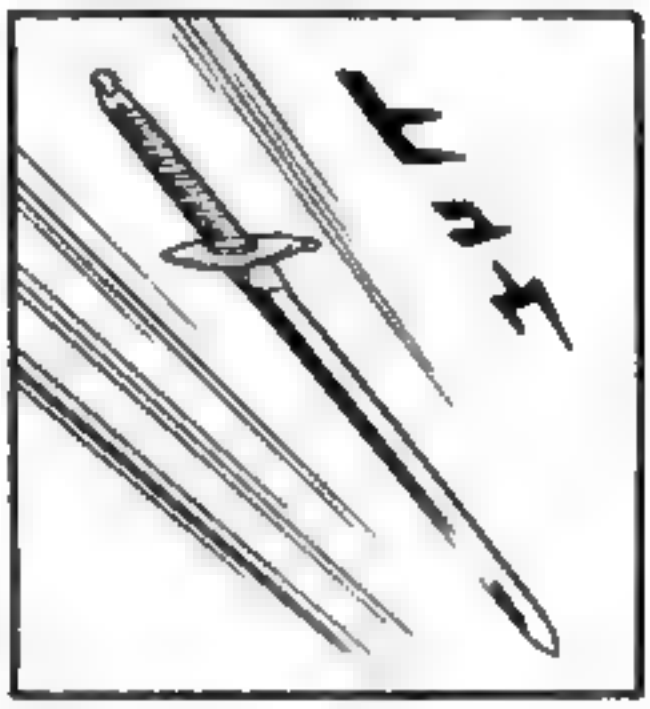
N-NO! I DON'T THINK...

YOU WOULDN'T BE THINKING THAT I'M JUST BLUFFING AND I'LL REALLY LET ZHANG FEI FREE NOW, DO YOU?

ZHANG FEI!!


YOU INSOLENT FOOL!


ACK!


YUNCHANG, JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

ARE YOU NOW CONVINCED OR DO YOU STILL DOUBT ME?

?

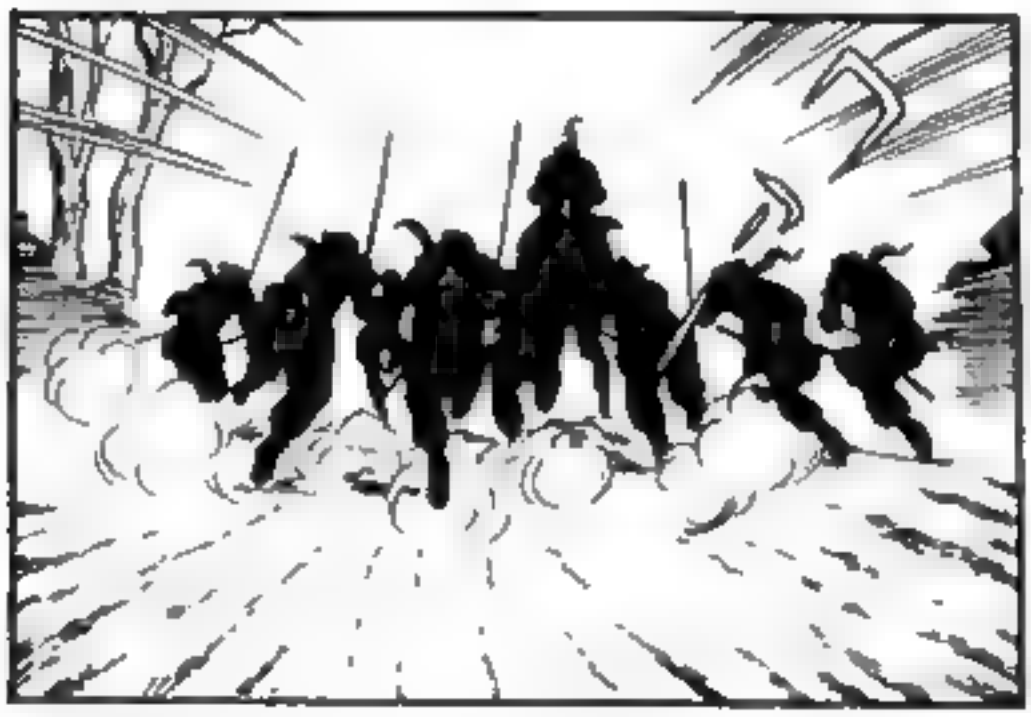
?

JUST SHUT UP AND ACT ALONG.

IF NOT, I SHALL JUST UNBIND HIM AND LEAVE HIM TO BE DEALT BY YOUR MEN.

Y-YES, YES, I'M SATISFIED. I SHALL THEN LEAVE HIM IN YOUR HANDS.

WHAT!



Y-YES SIR.
ALRIGHT MEN, WE'RE HEADING BACK!

HAHA, LOOKS LIKE THINGS WRAPPED UP NICELY.

BUT WHAT IS WITH YOUR... ATTIRE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HAHA, AS YOU SAY, MY DEAR BROTHER.
ZHANG FEI, I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING A LITTLE ROUGH WITH YOU. BUT DON'T SPILL ANY MORE UNNECCESSARY BLOOD FROM NOW ON.

WHAT?

I SEARCHED THROUGH MY HOME TO FIND SOMETHING APPROPRIATE TO WEAR FOR THE OCCASION SINCE YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU HAD AT LAST FOUND A GOOD LORD FOR US TO SERVE UNDER.

!!!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO LOUD.

BUT YOU SAID I WAS JUST BEING GULLIBLE!

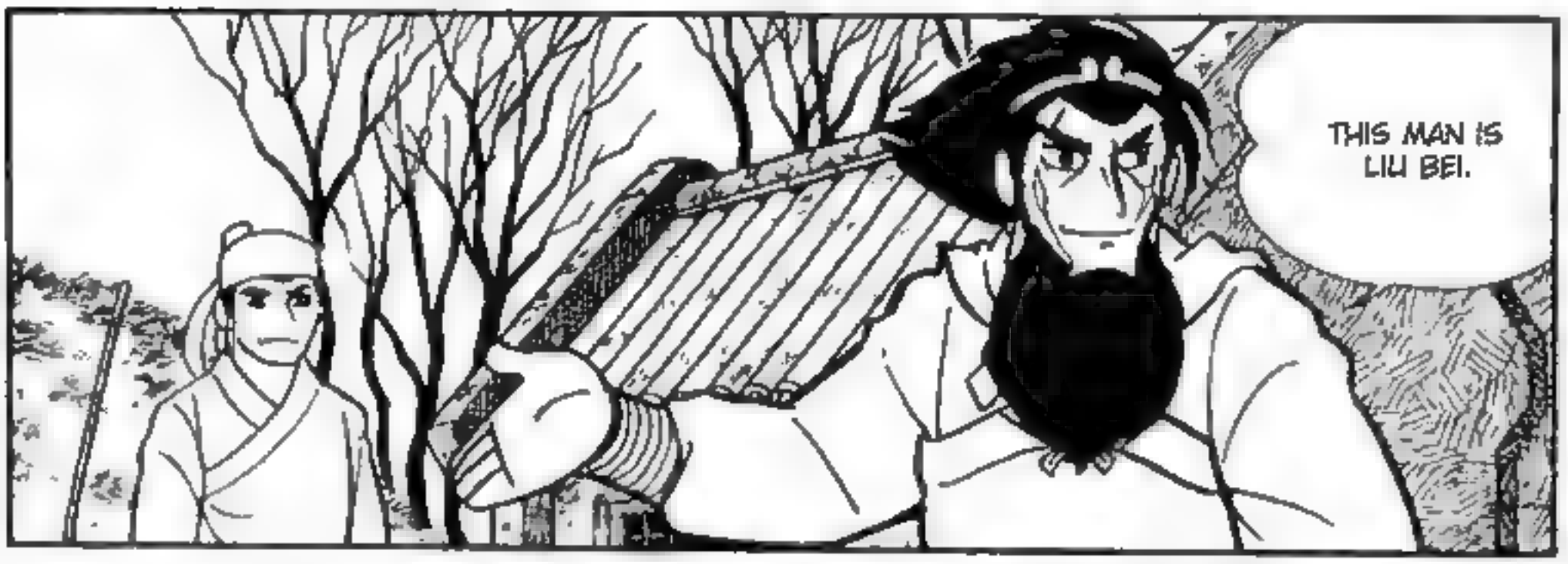
I'VE HEARD RUMORS OF LIU BEI BEING A RIGHTEOUS LEARNED MAN WHO IS ALSO KIND TO HIS MOTHER. I'VE SUSPECTED AS WELL THAT HE WAS NO ORDINARY MAN...

WHICH IS WHY I ANSWERED HOW I DID THAT NIGHT.

TO BE A DESCENDANT OF THE EMPEROR IS NOT A MATTER TO BE SO CASUALLY THROWN AROUND LIKE HOW YOU WERE DOING WITH YOUR USUAL LOUD BOOMING VOICE.

ALRIGHT THEN, LET US GREET OUR NEW MASTER.

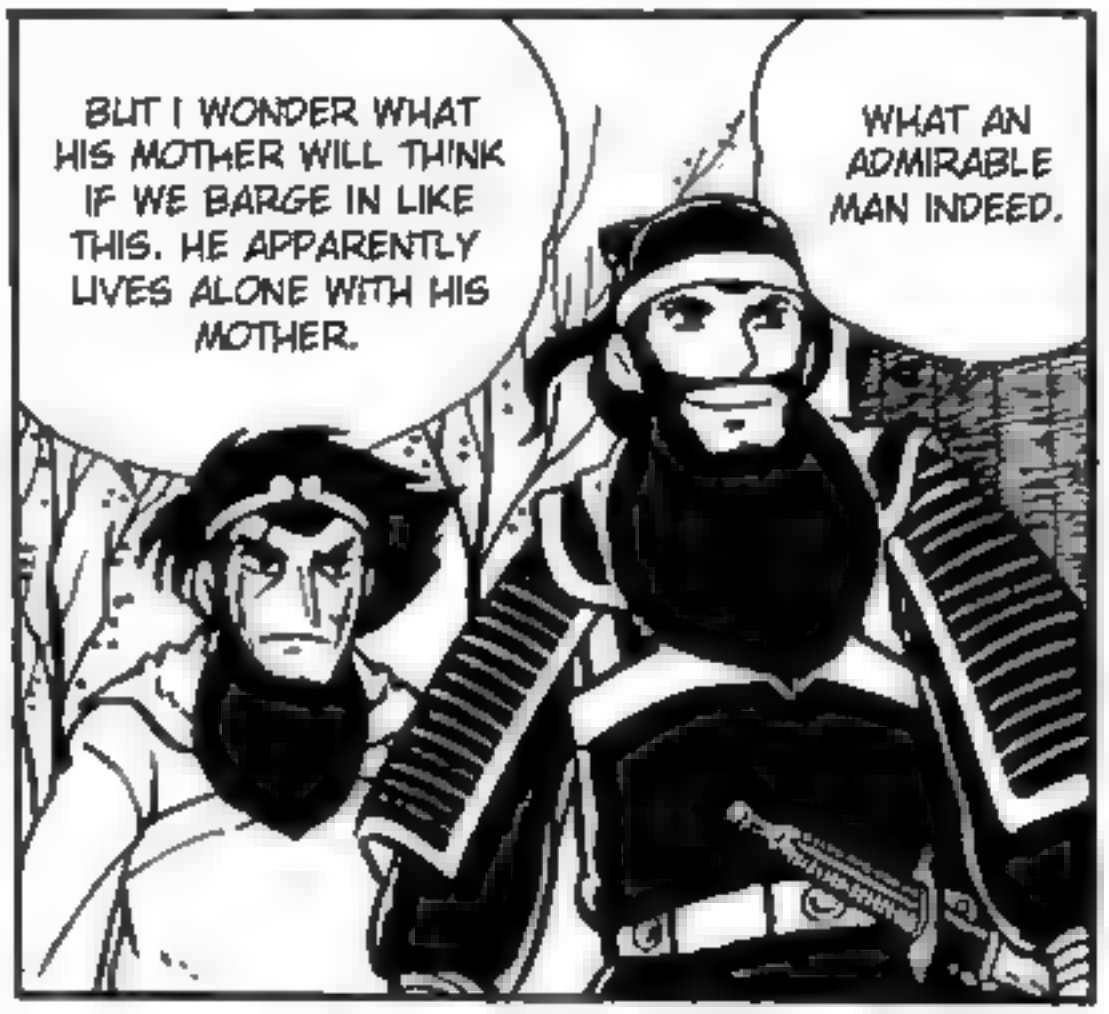
JEEZ, YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST TOLD ME THEN...


THIS MAN IS LIU BEI.

I HAVE COME TO SERVE UNDER YOU.
I'M HONORED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE. I AM GUAN YU YUNCHANG, ZHANG FEI'S OLDER BROTHER.

IN THE MEAN-WHILE, PLEASE COME INSIDE TO MY HOME.

THIS IS ALL A LITTLE SUDDEN AND I AM A LOSS AS TO HOW TO ANSWER APPROPRIATELY.


BUT I WONDER WHAT HIS MOTHER WILL THINK IF WE BARGE IN LIKE THIS. HE APPARENTLY LIVES ALONE WITH HIS MOTHER.
WHAT AN ADMIRABLE MAN INDEED.

YES.
PLEASE, COME IN.

MOTHER, WE HAVE GUESTS.

I WATCHED ALL OF WHAT JUST HAPPENED OUTSIDE.

ZHANG FEI LOWERED HIS HEAD WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING EXACTLY WHY HIMSELF. IT SEEMED AS IF A DIGNIFIED AURA SURROUNDED LIU BEI'S MOTHER.

YOUR DEAR MOTHER SHALL GO PREPARE THE ALCOHOL AND TABLE.

HMM?

IT SEEMS THE TIME HAS COME.

THE DRINKS WON'T TASTE VERY WELL IN THIS SHABBY HOUSE, A PROPER SETTING IS NEEDED.

I'VE ALWAYS EXPECTED THAT THIS TIME WOULD COME ONE DAY AND SO I'VE PREPARED WELL FOR THIS OCCASION.

BUT MOTHER, YOU KNOW WE DON'T HAVE ANY LIQUOR IN THIS HOME...

A MAN MUST STAND UP WHEN HIS TIME TO STAND UP COMES.

YES,

AND LIU BEI,

PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME ANY LONGER AND DO WHAT YOU THINK YOU MUST.

LIU BEI MAY BE ADMIRABLE BUT HIS MOTHER IS EVEN MORE SO.

YES.

PLEASE WAIT JUST A LITTLE WHILE, GENTLEMEN.

TO THINK THAT SHE MANAGED TO RAISE HER SON AS APPROPRIATE TO HIS ROYAL STATUS WHILE LIVING SUCH A IMPOVERISHED LIFESTYLE... I AM IN AWE.

THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PEACH TREE GARDEN BLOSSOMING IN LIUSANG AT THAT TIME. LIU BEI'S MOTHER WENT THERE TO SET UP THE TABLE.

IT WAS NOT CERTAIN JUST HOW SHE HAD MANAGED TO PREPARE SUCH A GRANDIOSE THING, BUT THE TOWNSPEOPLE HAD BROUGH FRUITS, MEAT, AND LIQUOR.

AND JUST HOW EXCELLENT IT IS, MA'AM.

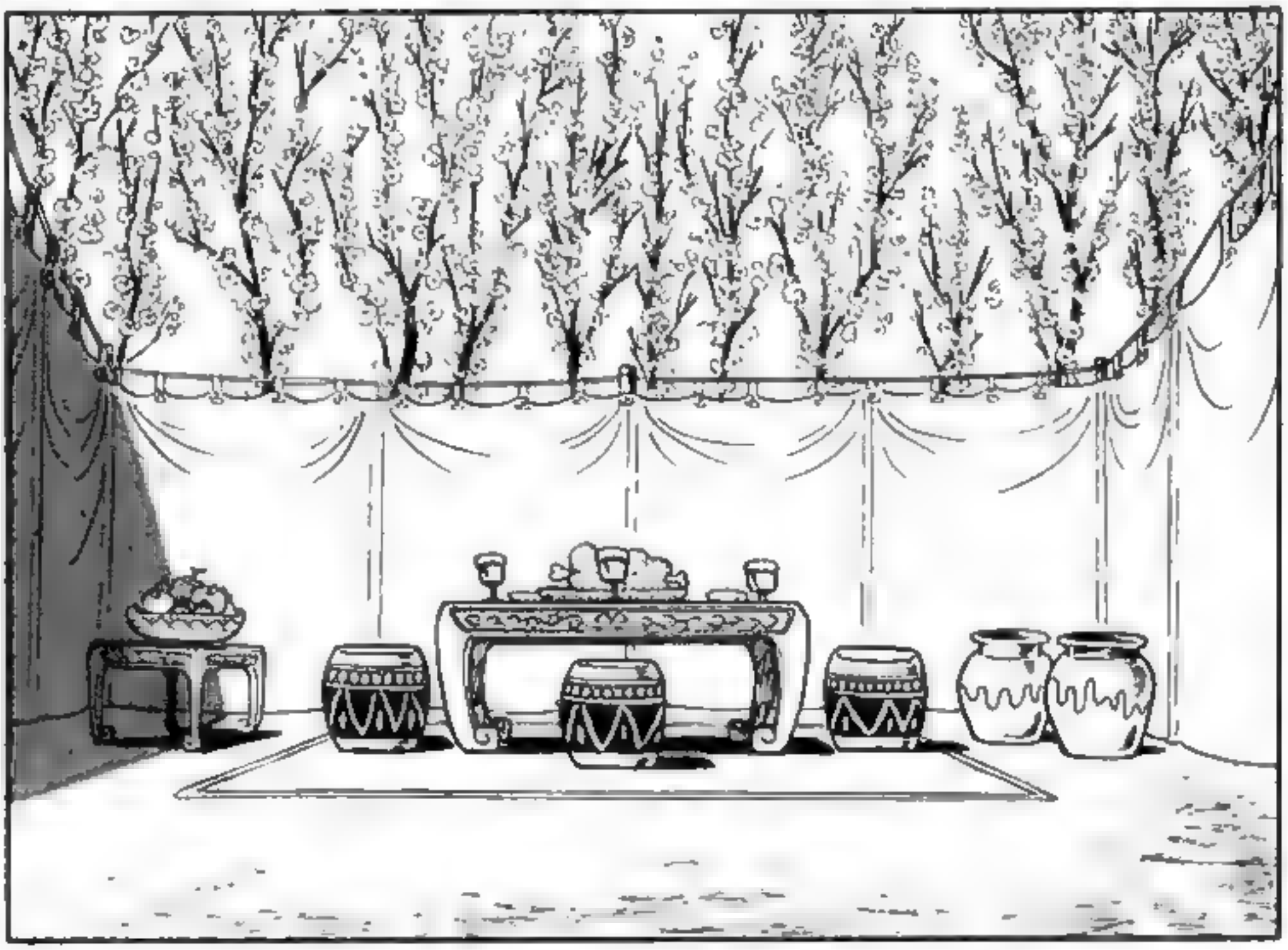
WITH THIS, THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

LIU BEI, THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

AH!

OHH!

OVER HERE.



YES.

NOW ENJOY IT WITH THESE MEN.

THIS IS ALL YOUR MOTHER COULD DO FOR YOU.

MOTHER, THIS IS...

NOW, LET US SWEAR OUR OATH TO MASTER LIU BEI HERE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH MAGNIFI-CENCE!

HOW SPLENDID!

TO BE A MASTER TO SOMEONE JUST DOES NOT SIT WELL WITH ME.

BUT I AM JUST A NAMELESS MAN WHO HAS YET TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.

WAIT. IT IS TRUE THAT THE BLOOD OF THE EMPEROR FLOWS WITHIN MY VEINS.

WAIT. NOW IF THOSE ARE LIU BEI'S WISHES, LET US NOT DENY IT.

I'VE ALREADY RESOLVED TO SERVE YOU.

P-PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT.

EVEN IF WE ARE TO BE BROTHERS, OUR FEELINGS OF WANTING TO SERVE YOU AS MASTER WILL NOT CHANGE.

I SHALL GLADLY.

BUT INSTEAD, LET US SWEAR AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD.

AND THUS, YOU SHALL BE OUR ELDEST BROTHER.

HMM, IF THAT'S SO, I WILL CERTAINLY BE SATISFIED WITH JUST CALLING YOU OUR ELDEST BROTHER FOR NOW.

WE SHALL CALL YOU FORMALLY AS OUR MASTER WHEN YOU BECOME THE EMPEROR...

YES.

ALRIGHT THEN...

THIS OATH, WHICH MARKED NOT ONLY THEIR BROTHERHOOD BUT THE RELATION BETWEEN LORD AND SUBJECTS, WAS TO BE LATER KNOWN AS "THE OATH OF THE PEACH GARDEN."

LET IT BE SWORN TO THE HEAVENS THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT BORN ON THE SAME DAY, WE HOPE TO DIE TOGETHER!

MNNNHH...

MMM...

HMM, ELDEST BROTHER LIU BEI ISN'T HERE.

AH

I WONDER WHERE HE WENT?

BUT LEAVING YOU HERE ALL ALONE STILL MAKES MY HEART...

YOU HAVE DECIDED WELL.

WORRY NOT FOR ME.

MOTHER, YOUR SON LIU BEI HAS DECIDED THAT HE WILL NOW GO OUT INTO THIS WORLD TO LESSEN THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE AND BRING BACK JUSTICE AND ORDER TO THIS WORLD.

YES, MOTHER.

MY RAISING YOU INTO A FITTING DESCENDANT OF THE EMPEROR WILL NOW SEE THE FRUITS OF LABOUR. YOU MUST FIGHT GALLANTLY FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE FROM NOW ON.

HMMM?

WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING HERE?

WE CAME HEARING A RUMOR THAT LIU BEI WILL RAISE A VOLUNTEER ARMY TO FIGHT AGAINST THE YELLOW SCARF REBELS.

B-BROTHER, PLEASE COME OUT, THESE PEOPLE HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.

WE TOO, CAN NO LONGER SILENTLY WATCH THOSE REBELS WREAK HAVOC. PLEASE LET US JOIN.

'TIS IS GOOD! LET ALL MEN WHO LOVE THIS COUNTRY JOIN!

PLEASE LET US JOIN AND FIGHT AGAINST THE REBELS, SIR.

TWO, DO NOT BE SWAYED BY PETTY MATERIAL GAIN AND HOLD MORE LOFTY ASPIRATIONS.

ONE, OBEY YOUR SUPERIORS.

WE ARE NO REBELS AND SO WE WILL HAVE IRON-CLAD LAWS.

BUT LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS.

FOURTH, THOSE WHO PILLAGE WILL BE DECAPITATED. FIFTH, ANY WHO MAKES INNOCENT CIVILIANS SUFFER WILL BE SENTENCED TO DEATH. SIXTH, THE SAME GOES FOR ANY WHO BREAKS ANY ONE OF THESE RULES.

THIRD, PRIORITIZE YOUR COUNTRY BEFORE YOURSELVES.

GUAN YU, RECRUITING MORE PEOPLE IS FINE BUT WHAT OF THE FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES?

HMM, THAT'S TRUE...

YES OF COURSE. THANK YOU SIR.

IF YOU AGREE TO ALL OF THOSE RULES, THEN YOU MAY JOIN.

AND HE MAY BE A RATHER VICIOUS BUSINESSMAN ...

HMM,

BUT YOU'D NEED A LOT OF MONEY TO BUY HORSES.

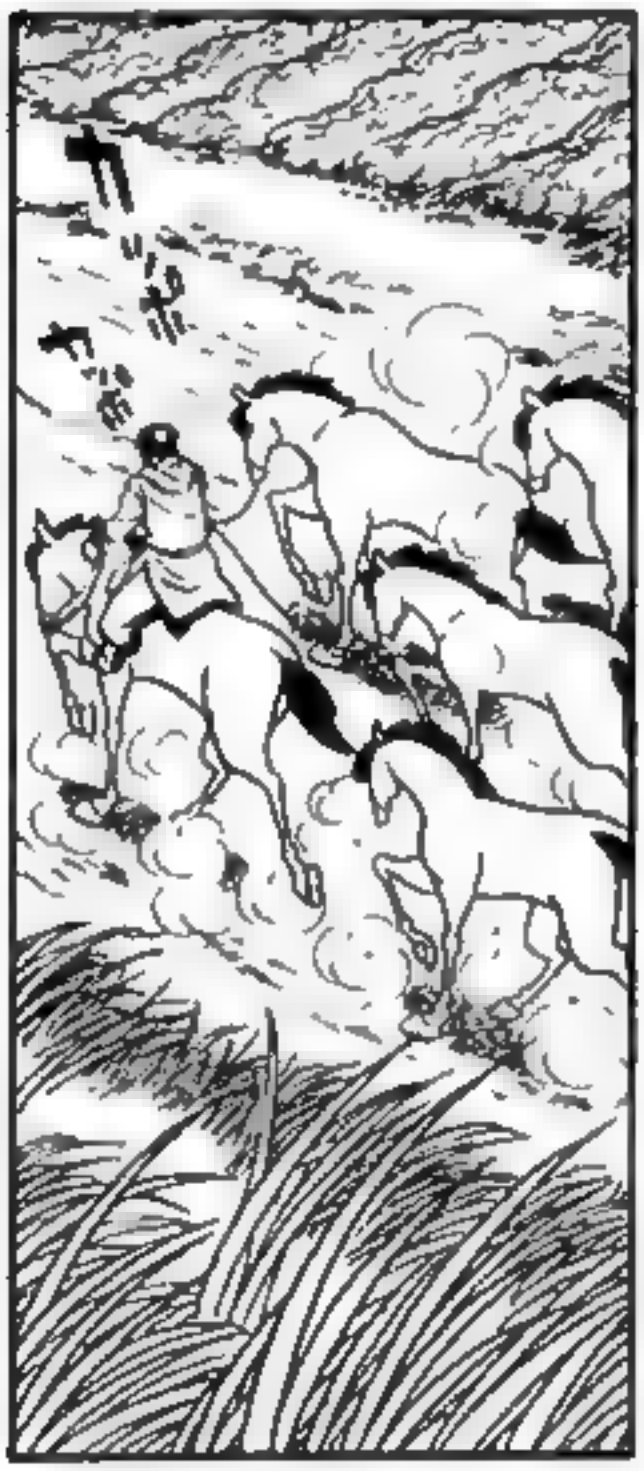
AH, THERE WAS A HORSE SALESMAN PASSING BY JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

ZHANG FEI! YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT STEALING WILL BE PUNISHABLE BY DEATH, RIGHT!?

ALRIGHT, I'LL BE OFF TO SEE HIM.

I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

JEEZ, YOU REALLY DO MAKE THE MOST BOTHE-RSOME RULES.



WAIT!

SO THAT'S HIM?

WELL, I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOUR HORSES.

WHAT IS IT, SIR?

OF COURSE, WE SHALL GLADLY SELL THEM TO YOU.

THE TRUTH IS THAT AN HONEST MAN IS TRYING TO RAISE A VOLUNTEER ARMY TO BRING ORDER TO THIS WORLD BUT HE HAS NEITHER HORSES NOR MONEY...

W-WELL, THE THING IS THAT I HAVE NO MONEY...

WHAT!

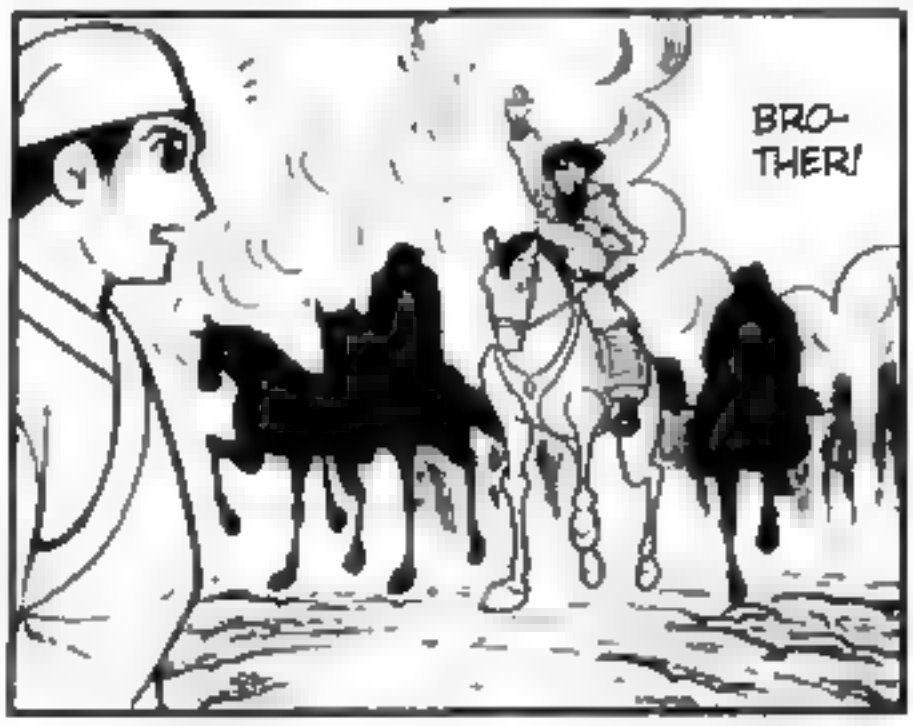
AS YOU WISH, YOU MAY TAKE THEM ALL THEN.

IS THERE ANY WAY YOU COULD WAIT UNTIL HE BECOMES THE LORD OF A CITY?

HMM, I STILL FEEL A LITTLE UNEASY ABOUT THIS WHOLE MATTER SO PERHAPS IT'D BE BEST IF YOU SPOKE WITH MY MASTER FIRST.

YES, PLEASE TAKE THEM ALL.
A-ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

THE HORSE SALESMAN SAID HE'D GIVE ALL HIS HORSES TO US FOR FREE...


BRO-THER!

THEN YOU SHALL UNDER-STAND.

I AM ZHANG SHIPING, A FAMOUS BUSINESSMAN FROM ZHONGSHANG.

HAHAHA, IT SEEMS AS IF THIS IS A LITTLE TOO SUSPI-CIOUS SO LET ME TELL YOU MY REASON WHY.

I'VE HEARD FROM ZHANG FEI HERE THAT YOU WOULD GIVE US THESE HORSES WITHOUT ACCEPTING ANY PAYMENT?

AND SO I NOW SELL HORSES WITH MY COUSIN, SU SHUANG.

BUT THE YELLOW SCARVES HAVE BURNED DOWN MY HOME AND HAVE TAKEN AWAY MY DAUGHTER.

IF SO, THEN I WOULD RATHER GLADLY GIVE THESE HORSES TO YOU IN ORDER FOR YOU TO FIGHT AGAINST THOSE WICKED DEMONS.

BUT TRAVELLING LIKE THIS, IT IS LIKELY THAT WE'LL BE ATTACKED BY THE YELLOW SCARVES AND ROBBED OF EVERYTHING AGAIN INCLUDING OUR LIVES.

PLEASE TAKE THIS MONEY.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED, I CAN EVEN PROVIDE THE WEAPON, ARMOUR, AND FOOD SUPPLIES.

AND A BUSINESSMAN HAS AN EYE FOR JUDGING PEOPLE. I CAN TELL FROM YOUR FACE THAT YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.

YES, I AM A BUSINESSMAN THROUGH AND THROUGH.

BUT A BUSINESSMAN IS ONE WHO ONLY WORKS IF HE SEES PROFIT FOR HIMSELF, SO WHY DO YOU GO SO FAR?

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AND NOW IS BETTER THAN LATER.

AND SO I AM INVESTING IN YOUR POTENTIAL, CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL SUCCEED.

JUST AS A WARRIOR FOLLOWS THE WAY OF THE SWORD, I FOLLOW THE ROAD TO PROFIT AS A BUSINESSMAN.

I UNDERSTAND, I SHALL GLADLY BORROW THIS MONEY THEN.

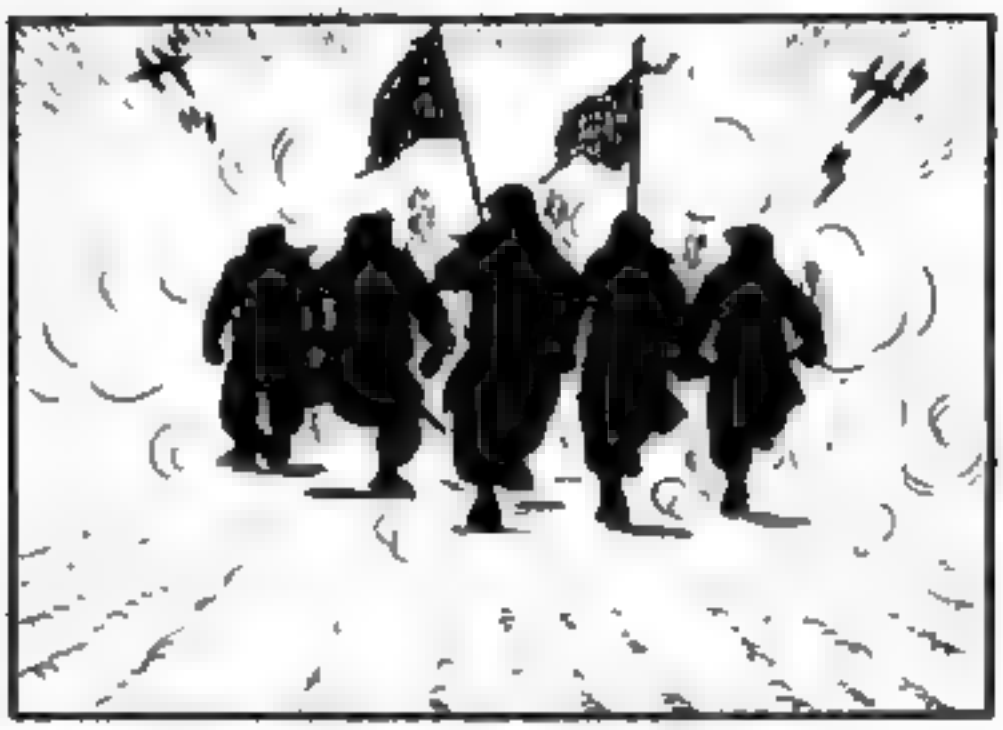
I WILL NOT MIND IF I MUST WAIT 10 OR 30 YEARS. I KNOW YOU WILL COME BACK TO REPAY ME.

ALRIGHT MEN, LET US USE THIS MONEY TO BUY THE NECCESSARY SUPPLIES!

美矢家毛筆店
加賀地酒古酒床
本大飯店

IS THAT SO? WELL IF THEY'RE GOING TO FIGHT THOSE DEMONS I'D GLADLY GO AND WELCOME THEM!

I HEARD THAT A VOLUNTEER ARMY FROM LIUSANG WAS ARRIVING.
WHAT IS IT?



OVER THERE! THEY'RE COMING!
SO WHERE ARE THEY?

AHH!

THESE GUYS ARE REALLY GOING TO FIGHT THE REBELS...?
T-THIS IS THE VOLUN-TEER ARMY?

PFFT!

MAYBE THEY'RE GOING TO THE BATTLEFIELD TO SALVAGE SOME SCRAPS?

BUT THEY LOOK LIKE A BAND OF BEGGARS!

HAHA, I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I SEE WHO IN THE WORLD THEIR COMMANDER IS?

HAHAHAH!

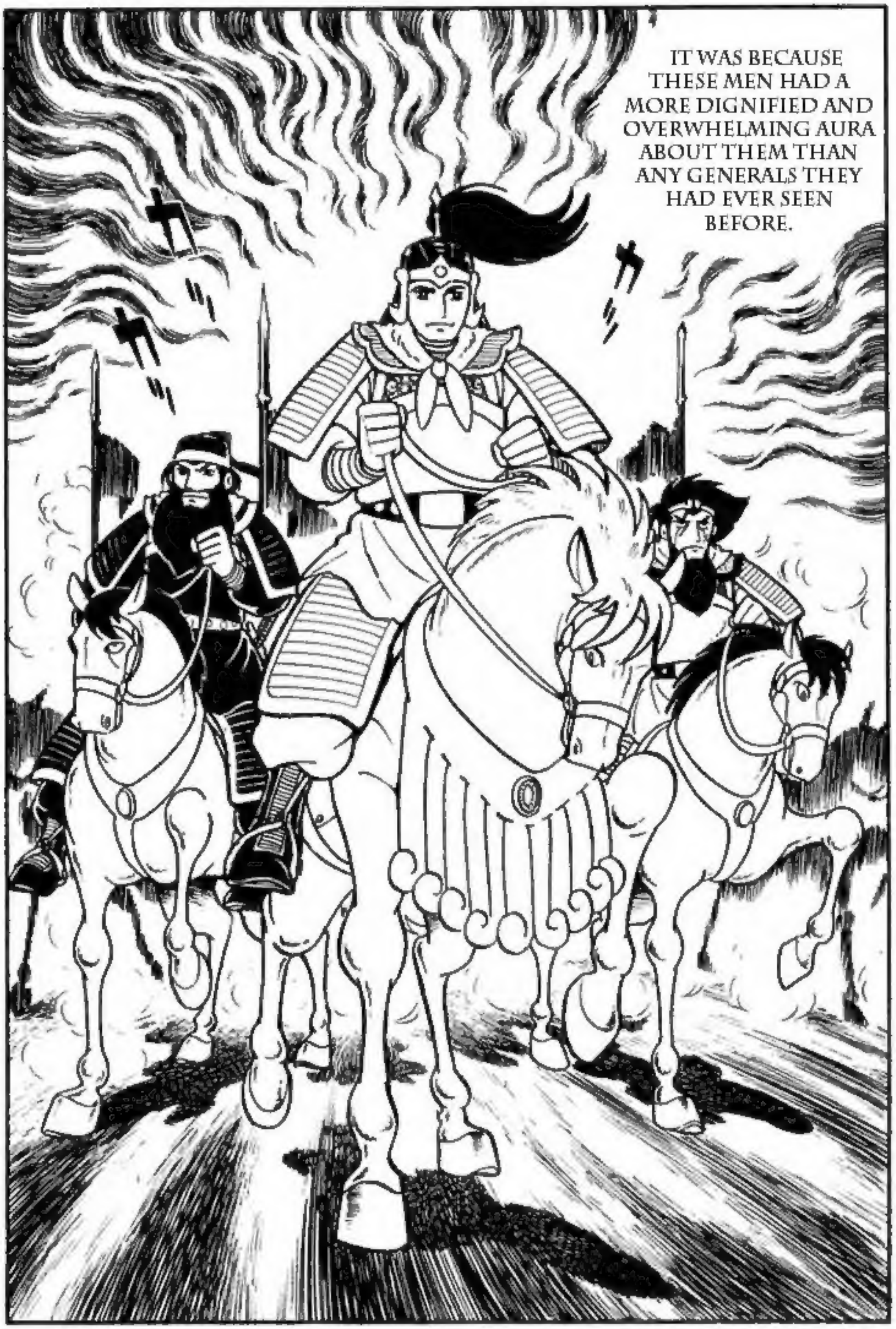
AHAHAHA!

HAHA- -COUGH- -COUGH-

HUH?

AH!

WHEN THE PEOPLE SAW LIU BEI, GUAN YU, AND ZHANG FEI, THEIR JEERING STOPPED IMMEDIATELY.


IT WAS BECAUSE THESE MEN HAD A MORE DIGNIFIED AND OVERWHELMING AURA ABOUT THEM THAN ANY GENERALS THEY HAD EVER SEEN BEFORE.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

eBOOKで
快適読書生活

http://www.ebookjapan.jp

電子書籍版

三国志

1

横山 光輝

© 光プロダクション／潮出版社

Original 潮出版社 希望コミックス

Digital Distributor
eBOOK Initiative Japan Co.,Ltd.
〒101-0062　東京都千代田区神田駿河台 2-9-18
http://www.ebookjapan.jp